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Japan

Miyazawa Meets Press on ASEAN, GATT

OW0401110693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Ise, Mie Pref., Jan. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday he will propose cooperating with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to help reconstruct the Indochinese peninsula and Cambodia.

Miyazawa, who paid an annual New Year visit to Ise Grand Shrine and spoke at a press conference there, said he will put forward the proposal during an upcoming eight-day trip to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei starting on January 11.

Miyazawa said, "ASEAN will be the locomotive leading the world's economy in the 21st century." ASEAN groups the four countries plus the Philippines and Singapore.

The prime minister said he will exchange views with leaders of the four Southeast Asian countries, particularly on what Japan can do to help ASEAN states settle their common problems.

In this regard, Miyazawa said he will propose joint efforts between Japan and ASEAN to help reconstruct the Indochinese peninsula and war-devastated Cambodia.

Officials said Miyazawa's proposal is designed to promote cooperation with ASEAN states of higher economic growth, chiefly Thailand and Singapore, to make more efficient economic assistance to the region's developing countries, particularly Vietnam and Laos.

Japan can play a role in building the region's social infrastructure, particularly traffic and communications networks as well as development of human resources, which is linked to the region's safety, Miyazawa said. Japan will make this a part of its mission, he said.

Miyazawa pointed to difficulties regarding an early conclusion to the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, noting a change of power in the United States and the market integration of the European Community.

The prime minister said, "It has become difficult to reach a final agreement" and added that he cannot predict when the trade talks might conclude.

Miyazawa touched on mounting foreign pressure on Japan to open its rice market and renewed Japan's opposition to a plan to replace all nontariff trade barriers with tariffs as proposed by the director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"We cannot" accept Arthur Dunkel's tariffication proposal, he said.

Some other countries have called for amendments to the Dunkel paper not only for agriculture but for other sectors, he said.

But he added that he hopes to avoid having Japan criticized for destroying the trade round.

On domestic political matters, Miyazawa said he will make clear the Liberal Democratic Party's political reform plan aimed at introducing single-seat constituencies in general elections for the House of Representatives.

He said the ruling party is ready to promote discussions with opposition parties to achieve political reform.

Ministry To Keep Existing Starch System

OW3112085292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0804 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 31 KYODO—The Agriculture Ministry intends to maintain the current system aimed at promoting consumption of domestically produced starch even after import restrictions on the product are replaced by tariffs, ministry officials said Thursday.

Currently, Japanese importers are exempted from a 25 percent tariff on imported starch if they purchase a certain amount of domestically produced starch.

For instance, the purchase of 10 tons of domestically produced starch can earn an importer exemption from the tariff on 100 tons of imported starch.

The ministry wants to leave the system unchanged even if nontariff trade barriers are replaced by tariffs under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, officials of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said.

According to a Japan-U.S. agreement on dairy and starch trade, reached in September, Japan will raise the ratio of imports to domestic products in the mixed purchase system from 10.5 to 1 to 11 to 1 while keeping its guaranteed minimum starch imports unchanged at 150,000 tons a year.

Imported starch accounts for about 6 percent of the nation's overall annual consumption of 2.8 million tons.

Peace Force Pullout From Cambodia Considered

OW0301091993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0844 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 3 KYODO—Japan is considering withdrawing its peacekeeping troops from Cambodia in August with the scheduled finish of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the war-torn country, government sources said Sunday.

Japan's cabinet, in deciding last September to send a 600-member engineer team from the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to Cambodia, originally planned for the

SDF engineers to work on road and bridge repairing projects through the end of October 1993.

The government had planned to rotate fresh engineer units in approximately six month intervals. The unit currently serving in Cambodia is expected to be replaced by April.

The sources said the SDF engineers might face danger if the infantry corps of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) leaves Cambodia in August. The infantry corps has served as a deterrent to the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group and provided safety for the Japanese engineers, according to the sources.

The U.N.-negotiated peace accord signed in Paris in October 1991 states that UNTAC will end its mission following the enactment of a new Cambodian Constitution and establishment of a new government three months after a May 1993 general election.

The Khmer Rouge, militarily the strongest of three guerrilla groups opposing the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government, has refused to abide by the Paris peace agreement and has intensified its objections to the U.N. mission.

Yasushi Akashi, a Japanese national who heads UNTAC, once spoke of the possibility of the U.N. blue helmets' remaining beyond August, but there are problems in financing a longer mission, the government sources said.

The 20,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia, which started last March, had cost about 800 million dollars by fall, almost all of which was used to pay the salaries of 16,000 military personnel.

Tokyo Banks Resume Loans to Mexico

OW3012130492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1146 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Japanese banks have resumed new loans to Mexico, with the Bank of Tokyo and six other banks extending 800 million dollars to Mexico's state oil company, Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX), a banking source said Wednesday.

The source said the loan follows the Japanese Government's pledge to offer official insurance for Japanese bank loans to oil projects in Mexico.

"The loan was made possible against the backdrop of official guarantee, so I'm not sure whether it will serve as a stepping stone to more loans from Japanese banks," the source said.

The five-year loan, lead managed by the Bank of Tokyo, is carrying an interest rate estimated to be roughly 1.2 percentage point above the London interbank offered rate, the source said.

Japanese banks had been reluctant to commit new money to Mexico because they were forced to write off bad loans to that country in the wake of the Mexican debt crisis in the early 1980s.

Miyazawa Holds 25 Dec News Conference

OW0101020993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 1 Jan 93

[News Conference by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa with unidentified reporters at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo on 25 December—recorded]

[Text] [Dean of Press Corps] We would like to begin the prime minister's news conference. Mr. Prime Minister, one year has passed since your government was inaugurated. I would like to ask how you are going to deal with this year's tasks, taking into account what your government has done over the past year. Mr. Prime Minister, you mentioned the slogan of transformation and policy implementation when you recently conducted your cabinet reshuffle. The public approval rating for your cabinet remains low, even after your cabinet was reshuffled—the public distrust in politics appears to be deep-rooted. Please discuss exactly what plans you intend to implement in the future, what actions you plan to take toward dispelling public distrust in politics. I would like to have your views on these questions.

[Miyazawa] As you just said, I think that the first step toward transformation and policy implementation is political reform. During the past year, emergency measures were taken concerning political reform. As for how to carry out drastic political reform, our party has set a general direction. At a recent meeting with myself, the leaders of the opposition parties told me that they have prepared various plans for political reform. During the meeting, they proposed that open debates be held on political reform. I agreed with their proposals. I think that political reform is a long-standing issue. Back in 1883, Britain legislated a law concerning the prevention of corruption, laying the groundwork for building present-day parliamentary politics. I believe that the time has come for us to legislate such a law. Therefore, we have to restore the public's confidence in politics by successfully carrying out political reform. This is a question not only for the ruling and opposition parties, but for parliamentary politics as a whole. This is the biggest task for the Diet to accomplish this year. As for the next domestic issue, we will have to help the economy recover. Regarding foreign affairs, there will be questions on this later. We will focus our domestic policy on these two points and I think that this is the biggest task we will have to accomplish this year.

[Dean of Press Corps] Mr. Prime Minister, you just mentioned political reform. During the recent meeting with opposition party leaders, you indicated that a bill related to political reform would be introduced to the ordinary Diet session. When do you plan to complete drafting the bill? As to the single-constituency system, opposition parties are vehemently opposed to it. How do you plan to work to win their understanding concerning this system?

[Miyazawa] During the recent meeting with opposition party leaders, the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], the Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] expressed their desires concerning political reform. The Komeito and the DSP said that parliamentary debates should be held on political reform. The SDPJ did not propose anything on this subject. In any case, political reform is involved with the question of fixing the current constituency system. It will be hard to achieve a consensus on political reform unless full debates are held. In that sense, an agreement should be sought on political reform in the course of debates in the Diet. We have here the question of how to publicly coordinate the current constituency system. I believe that it is important to have elections where political parties play key roles. Given this importance, we are thinking of how to coordinate the current constituency system. I think that since there are various views on the coordination of the system, parliamentary debates should be held concerning this.

[Dean of Press Corps] The previous extraordinary Diet session took measures to probe the Kominto [the Party of the Emperor's People] incident involving former Prime Minister Takeshita. Meanwhile, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] has held an executive meeting to hear testimony from the former prime minister on his involvement in the incident. It seems that the ruling party is saying that the probe into his involvement in the incident has been completed. Mr. Prime Minister, as the president of the LDP, do you think that your party's probe is adequate? Or do you think that your party will continue to probe his involvement? Have you considered urging Mr. Takeshita to resign from the Diet? I would like to have your views on these questions.

[Miyazawa] One current issue which the people of this nation are most irritated about is this issue—even though, of course, there remains the economic recession problem, too.

The people think the whole truth about the graft scandals has not been brought to light yet. They wonder what the government is doing. Many people think that even though the Diet took up the matter in its recent session, the actions carried out there were not adequate for delving into the truth of the matter. The people are concerned as to why speedy measures have not been carried out. But the law must be observed, and a Diet review of the matter needs to proceed under the parliament's common rules. We must admit that some things cannot be resolved in a single sweep, and that the people themselves are aware of this—and that they still are irritated. This is how I view the situation.

Now the Diet is in recess. It was as much the desire of our party as the people's to look into the matter and hear from the persons concerned—without being hampered by the formalities of the Diet. That is how we came to ask Mr. Takeshita to come to the party offices and discuss things for about two hours. As we were not on the Diet floor, we were able to conduct extensive, frank question and answer exchanges, and we believe that we, as a party, have done what could possibly be done in that regard. Of course, if there are new findings in the future, this will be welcome. But, so far as the party is concerned, it has done all that it can. That is how I feel.

[Correspondent] I would like to ask you about another question—or shall I call it a task—in the domestic political area. The question of most concern to us is the dissolution of the House of Representatives, which has about a year of its term left. Speaking bluntly, could you tell us when you plan to dissolve the lower house and hold a general election?

[Miyazawa] I am not considering doing this at all. To look back on the past year, it has been a long year with so many things happening. But, at present, I am not thinking about what I will do next. To be honest with you, these are my feelings.

[Correspondent] Now I would like to ask you about foreign affairs. Since you will be leaving on a tour of the ASEAN nations as soon as the new year starts, I would like to ask you about Asian diplomacy. In terms of the role which Japan should play in the post-cold war world, what are your plans with regard to Asia? A new president has been elected in South Korea. Do you plan to visit South Korea? What is your plan on diplomacy with regard to the overall situation on the Korean peninsula—including the question of relations with North Korea? I would like to have your comments on these points.

[Miyazawa] Early last year, soon after being named prime minister, I paid a visit to South Korea. This year, I want to visit the ASEAN nations. After all, Japan is an Asian country. It is only natural that we should help our own region, which is interdependent upon itself. What I want to do in the ASEAN nations this time is—well [changes thought]. While it is very pleasing to learn that this region is turning out to be a bright spot—possibly the brightest spot—for the world in terms of economic development, there is the question of what Japan should do for these nations, or what these nations want Japan to do to help them continue developing. I want to hear and find out personally the thinking in these nations.

Of course, Japanese investments in the region have increased sharply since the Plaza Accord, and the industrialization of this region has progressed very rapidly. This is very good, and I hope that it will continue. Meanwhile, there are things which Japan can do to help this bright spot of Asia become a brighter place—contributing in this region in areas such as infrastructure, telecommunications, transportation, training, students studying overseas, and so forth. I want to find out from these nations' top leaders what they think Japan should do. Then I will try to take in and accommodate their wishes as much as possible. That is the number one reason for the visit. Some requests from them may concern bilateral matters between Japan and individual countries, as well as matters common to the region as a whole.

As far as your question on South Korea is concerned, that country conducted a presidential election recently, and the election was an exemplary one—I told President-elect Kim Yong-sam so—with no complaints voiced about irregularities, invalid votes and so forth. Now a civilian government is being born. This is something of which South Korea can be proud. I told Mr. Kim so, and I believe this.

I paid a visit to South Korea early last year, and Mr. No Tae-u came to Kyoto to meet with me later in the year. I will maintain close contact with the new South Korean Government. Japan and South Korea need not only talk about their mutual bilateral relations, but also about the future—what the two countries should do together for Asia and the world. That is my hope.

As far as the question of North Korea—the DPRK—is concerned, normalization talks with North Korea are making little progress because this country has not allayed our suspicions about its program for the development of nuclear arms. I strongly hope that North Korea will clear up these suspicions this year.

[Correspondent] My questions concern relations with the United States. The Clinton administration named its secretary of state and has finally completed the formation of a cabinet. Can you first tell me when you plan to visit the United States? Do you foresee anything new—shall I call it a change in the situation—as a result of the completion of the staffing of the new government? If possible, could you comment on the people who will make up the Clinton administration?

[Miyazawa] It has been the advice of you, the mass media of Japan, that I should go to the United States and meet with the people there as soon as possible. I feel the same way, but cabinet appointments there have only just been completed. Besides, reports inform me that they want to place emphasis on solidifying their domestic political foundation first. In particular, economic and financial issues remain urgent tasks. After all, looking at the past record, it is apparent that a new president can easily work with Congress during the so-called honeymoon period. They appear to be thinking this way.

Consequently, even though foreign affairs may be important, they want the domestic part of the work to be taken care of first. Naturally, I can understand that situation. So, I am thinking of visiting after seeing that they have taken reasonably good care of that task. That being the given situation, we are not specifically talking about when this visit should take place. To have the first meeting with Clinton at the summit is not desirable either. So I feel I need to do it some day soon—but we are not yet consulting on the timing in concrete terms. My perception is that the new administration consists of the best leaders from various quarters of the United States—it is like a miniature of U.S. society.

[Correspondent] The most important event this year may be the Tokyo summit. What will your basic position be in dealing at the summit? Would you also tell us if you plan to invite Russian President Yeltsin to the summit?

[Miyazwa] Speaking of the world economy, while that of the United States appears to be improving, Japan is in the state you know of—Europe is not in good condition either. The seven industrial nations should get together to help improve the world economy. There are so many countries with serious unemployment problems. The purpose of the summit, after all, is to discuss what can be done about these problems.

On top of this is the issue of the former Soviet Union, about which it is so difficult to make forecasts. There is also the question of what we should do about the former USSR. During the 1991 summit in Munich, a concept emerged that the IMF should be put in charge of the matter of the former USSR, that the IMF should be entrusted with coming up with remedies and the nations should then provide support to the IMF in this regard. That concept has since been followed, but suddenly in 1992, uneasiness developed in the country. The recent cabinet reshuffle in the country, for example, makes betting on this country in 1993 doubtful. Even where economic conditions there are concerned, the future does not look easy. Still, we cannot sit idly, doing nothing.

I think that high on the summit agenda will be how the industrialized nations should help Russia advance democracy and promote a market economy. I personally think that the G-7 summit should hold more discussions on the issue of the developing nations. Then, there is the disarmament issue and other issues to be taken up for discussion at the summit.

[Dean of Press Corps] What about Mr. Yeltsin?

[Miyazawa] It is a bit hard to understand what course Russia will follow in the future. In a recent cabinet reshuffle, however, Mr. Kozyrev was retained as foreign minister. As for Mr. Yeltsin's postponed visit to Japan, I thought that his visit to our nation would be difficult unless the Supreme Soviet were to end its year-end session successfully. I think that now that the session has ended, it would be a positive factor for a visit by Yeltsin to our nation. As to the relationship between Mr. Yelstin and the summit, as of now no decision has been made. Japan will host the summit and it will have to listen to the views of the other six industrialized nations concerning Yeltsin's attendance at the appropriate time. As far I am concerned, no decision has been made on his attendance at the summit.

[Dean of Press Corps] This is my last question as the dean of the Press Corps. I would like to ask about the rice issue.

[Miyazawa] Yes.

[Dean of Press Corps] It appears that circumstances surrounding the negotiations have been changing. Will there not be any change in Japan's position on seeking a revision of the Dunkel Paper this year? Do you think that you should make a decision on Japan's acceptance of tariffication without exception at a certain stage? I would like to have your views on this question.

[Miyazawa] The trade negotiation committee finally held its session on 10 December. The United States and the EC negotiated for more than ten months. During that period, Japan had no opportunity to formally advocate its position at the multilateral trade negotiations. But it recently had such an opportunity. As for the Dunkel Paper, Japan clarified its position that the paper should be revised. The United States and the EC have asked that the paper be revised on some points—including agriculture. As expected, each negotiating nation demanded a revision of the paper. Japan demanded a revision of the paper. In this way, Japan clarified its position on how it will deal with the multilateral trade negotiations. Export subsidies and domestic protective measures to ensure farmers' incomes are the issues posed by agricultural producing nations. What Japan has advocated is that the so-called border measures are now imbalanced. On Christmas Eve, an agreement was reached among the negotiating nations on the resumption of the multilateral trade negotiations in mid-January of this year. Many negotiating nations have made their requests for a revision of the paper. As I recently said, Japan should work to conclude the Uruguay Round successfully. Japan recently formally requested that the paper be revised and that consideration be given to Japan's request. Each negotiating nation has made a variety of proposals for the revision of the Dunkel Paper, and the multilateral trade negotiations will discuss finalizing the details of the paper in mid-January of this year. The issues involved in the negotiations have become complicated. It is unclear when the negotiations will be settled because of the U.S. Congress' fast track, a deadline set for 1 March, and the change in the administration in that country. Regarding the Dunkel Paper presented two years ago, Japan then requested a revision of the paper. Japan's position is that the nation should work to settle the Uruguay Round in one way or other.

[Dean of Press Corps] I have finished my questions. Please, feel free to ask any questions.

[Correspondent] I would like to ask a question on the rice issue. Mr. Prime Minister, you just said that Japan will ask for a revision of the Dunkel Paper at the negotiations in Geneva, in line with its stated policy. In Geneva, nonetheless, Japan is in a difficult position to refuse tariffication without exception. At home, meanwhile, resolutions have been adopted by the Diet on rice self-sufficiency. I think that the focal point here is whether Japan should change its stated policy. Mr. Prime Minister, how are you going to deal with the rice issue? Will Japanese rice growers suffer devastating damages if Japan accepts tariffication without exception? Does the government plan to aggressively study ways to deal with rice farming in the future?

[Miyazawa] In view of the present situation in Geneva, there is no indication that Japan has hindered the Uruguay Round. There are various views on the Uruguay Round. Negotiations between the United States and the EC were protracted, delaying a conclusion of the Uruguay Round. There are various views on the Uruguay Round among the member nations of the EC. Negotiating nations have taken various views on market access, intellectual property rights, agriculture and future methods for maintaining the GATT. We have been concerned about Japan's position at the negotiations of the Uruguay Round—Japan is not in a difficult position at the negotiations. I think that this is a good thing. There is no change in Japan's position of seeking a consensus at the negotiations, while coordinating the various views of the negotiating nations and cooperating with them. As I have repeatedly said, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will work out a policy to build new rural communities in Japan. I think that, from now on, the ministry will study a basic policy on agriculture and rice. No matter how the Uruguay Round develops in the future, Japanese rural communities and rice growers will not be exposed to any threat, and this should absolutely not happen in the future.

[Correspondent] Some in the LDP paint a grim picture of the future of the economy. Last year industrial output dropped. What measures are you going to take to stimulate the economy this year?

[Miyazawa] The pump-priming package announced by the government last August will generate the effect of stimulating the economy this year. It is certain that the draft budget for fiscal 1993 that was recently worked out by the government and the pump-priming package will combine to generate substantial effects toward spurring the economy. The draft budget gives priority to public works projects, and fiscal investment at the central and local level is set to grow by 12 percent—this is a large figure. Fiscal expenditures for the improving livelihoods will be increased by 7 percent. I think that all of these will combine to spur the economy. Needless to say, there are provisions under which fiscal investments can be flexibly managed, and this will make it possible to increase fiscal investments. The government has thus far done everything in its power to stimulate the economy. Japan's economy is based on market economic principles, and private enterprise should perform based on that mechanism. I believe that the draft budget will play a positive role in stimulating the economy. As usual, business executives will actually feel the economy recover six or ten months after its actual recovery. The economy will not abruptly become active, even after it bottoms out. I think that the government should pay attention to this point. I think that the government should work to have the Diet enact the draft budget and disburse the enacted budget as soon as possible. The government plans to flexibly manage the economy while watching economic trends.

[Correspondent] My question concerns political reform. The focus in the Sagawa Kyubin scandal was the involvement of crime syndicate leaders in the scandal. In addition to Mr. Kanemaru's case, links between conservative party leaders, leaders of crime syndicates, and leaders of this right wing group who have influence on crime syndicates have been coming to light. Mr. Prime Minister, as a politician who has watched the conservative politics for a long time, what do you think of this issue? How are you going to deal with it?

[Miyazawa] I think that the public view of crime syndicates has long been ambiguous. The law on organized crime, however, legally defined the nature of organized crime for the first time. This is the first time that organized crime has been legally defined. Many views have been expressed on organized crime, but with the new legal definition of the organized crime, the public view of organized crime will change. Previously, I mentioned the British law on the prevention of corruption. The legislation of the law in Britain ended vote buying in elections and the underworld. I believe that the time has come for Japan to legislate such a law. The legislation of the law on the organized crime will provide a strong impetus so that the people can take a tough attitude toward organized crime.

[Correspondent] Chairman Makoto Tanabe of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] recently announced his resignation from the leadership of the party. Former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata has established a new faction in the LDP, and some SDPJ members have formed an inter-party policy group called Sirius. We think that this series of moves heralds a regrouping in political circles, and that this will become much more clear as the next general election approaches.

Mr. Prime Minister, you have told us earlier you believe that moves toward a regrouping in political circles are still premature. What is your current opinion on the latest developments concerning this issue?

[Miyazawa] My opinion is that it is not very easy to establish a new political party with well-organized policy plans. If a new party is established with political reform as its slogan, nobody will oppose the policy and the public might eagerly support the party under the current circumstances. Perhaps these moves are intensified by such a situation. Therefore, we must recognize that the LDP really has to take the initiative in political reform, and must present definite plans for reform to the public. This is my view on the issue.

[Correspondent] In connection with the general elections scheduled for this year, the LDP presidential election is also coming up on the agenda as one of the biggest political events of 1993. Your term as LDP president will expire in late September. Could you tell us about your election strategy? Also, please tell us your opinion on some LDP members' proposals for a prime ministerial election by public vote.

[Miyazawa] Public vote... Excuse me, your first question is about the LDP presidential election, is it not? In fact, I have not seriously thought about the election. All I can say is that I will try my best until my term expires. Regarding the proposal for electing the prime minister by public vote, various advanced and democratic nations have adopted their own political systems, after much consideration. In Japan, the procedures for electing the prime minister cannot be revised without a revision of the Constitution. Frankly speaking, I have never seriously thought about the possibility of such a system, and my stance is that the proposal can be discussed in the sense that everybody can have his or her opinion. Supposing that we would want to introduce a system of public voting for the position, we would have to thoroughly discuss what the merits and demerits of the system would be before adopting it. I think this is not an easy question to settle.

[Cabinet Secretary Kono] Would you excuse us? Thank you very much for joining us today.

[Miyazawa] Thank you.

NHK Interviews Opposition Party Leaders

OW0201124493

[Editorial report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 2 January broadcasts part one of a two-part program of recorded interviews with opposition party leaders. Part one consists of a 30-minute recorded interview with Sadao Yamahana, secretary general of the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], followed by a 30-minute recorded interview with Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Komeito, by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto and NHK announcer Miyuki Morita. No mention is given as to when and where the interviews were conducted.

At 0002 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita begin the interview with Secretary General Yamahana.

After exchanging New Year greetings, Yamamoto asks Yamahana about Chairman Tanabe's resignation. In response, Yamahana says "Mr. Tanabe has announced his intention to resign as chairman of the SDPJ after manifesting his resolve to reform the party and bring about a new generation." Asked by Yamamoto to comment on reports that he is emerging as the most potential candidate to succeed Mr. Tanabe as chairman of the main opposition party, Yamahana says: "What is important is not to establish a new party leadership, but to rebuild the party anew. I think that people harbor an image that the SDPJ remains unchanged because of structural reasons. We must rebuild our party into a new party that is in tune with the new era. To that end, we intend to push for sweeping reform." Yamahana adds that he hopes to play a role in rebuilding his party. Asked by Yamamoto if the new SDPJ leadership will be formed before the ordinary Diet session opens, Yamahana says, "It is a matter of course for our party to form a new leadership before the ordinary Diet session opens," citing the importance of the Diet session. Explaining the procedures for electing a new chairman, Yamahana says that his party will hold an extraordinary party convention by 19 January to choose the new leader.

Asked by Morita about the possibility of the SDPJ seizing power, Yamahana says that the "SDPJ has given a stereotypical image to the people that it only seeks resistance"; he adds that his party will seek bold cooperation with other parties for the sake of people's livelihoods. He also stresses that "our party will build itself into a new party capable of running the government and reforming itself."

Asked by Yamamoto about the possibility of the SDPJ altering its basic policy at odds with those of other political parties concerning the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Self-Defense Forces [SDF], Yamahana says that "our party should work to set forth a new basic policy in tune with the new era." On the constitutionality of the SDPJ, Yamahana says that "our party no longer needs to hold old stereotyped debates on whether the SDF is constitutional or not. Our party should seek realistic options about how it can realize constitutional ideals through realpolitik."

Asked by Yamamoto to comment on current moves by political parties to form a new party, Yamahana says, "Our party intends to rebuild itself into a new party rather than paying attention to others' actions to form a new party," adding that his party aims to become the nucleus of political forces in order to end corrupt LDP politics.

Asked by Morita about political reform, Yamahana stresses that "former Prime Minister Takeshita should admit candidly his involvement in the Kominto [the Party of Emperor's People] incident and resign from the Diet," adding that former LDP Secretary General Ozawa should testify before the Diet. Noting that the probe into the Sagawa Kyubin scandal has not yet been completed, Yamahana says "Our party will seek further investigation into the scandal by calling people implicated in the scandal to testify before the Diet."

Asked by Morita about the LDP-proposed single-seat constituency system, Yamahana stresses that "political reform is not confined to the electoral system" and what is necessary today is to legislate a law to prevent political corruption, adding that his party is against the single-seat constituency system.

Asked by Yamamoto about measures to stimulate the economy, Yamahana stresses the "need to cut taxes," adding that his party has continued to propose cutting taxes since last year. Yamahana criticizes the government and the LDP for "taking stereotyped measures to spur the economy," citing the draft budget for fiscal 1993. Yamahana also says that all opposition parties agree on the need to cut taxes and adds that the focus in parliamentary deliberation of the draft budget will be tax cuts. Yamahana particularly emphasizes the need to cut income taxes, saying that "business circles and individuals both strongly hope for a cut in income taxes."

Asked by Yamamoto about the issue of opening the Japanese rice market, Yamahana says: "The Diet has adopted a resolution calling for self-sufficiency in rice on three occasions, and it is a matter of course for our party to oppose opening up the Japanese rice market. How would Japan supply food on a stable basis with only a 30-percent rate in grain self-sufficiency? How will the LDP respond if something happens to this low grain self-sufficiency rate? The rice issue reminds us of the old pattern of negotiations between Japan and the United States. The United States and the EC have reached an agreement, and they are now studying how they should press us to accept the agreement. In response, Japan is now thinking of when to accept the agreement, pretending to withstand the pressure, but we are worried that Prime Minister Miyazawa may be thinking about accepting it. I believe that the rice issue will become a major agenda in the forthcoming Diet session."

Asked by Yamamoto about the Uruguay Round, Yamahana says: "We are fully aware that a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round will be beneficial to Japan from the viewpoint of defending free trade. The issue of rice, a stable food in Japan, is not only confined to rice, but is related to a lot of problems involving the future of Japan's rural communities and environmental problems. The government is now studying when to comply with calls to open the Japanese rice market, as it did when liberalizing beef and orange imports. This is the government's old stereotyped method of dealing with trade problems. Our party is opposed to the tariffication without exception. I think that our party should set forth its views on the issue of opening the Japanese rice market. Our party has introduced three bills on agriculture to the Diet. It has also made positive proposals for rebuilding rural communities. I think that the LDP must listen to what our party advocates."

At 0030 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita end their interview with Yamahana.

At 0031 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita begin their interview with Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida.

Asked what he expects of the New Year, Ishida says that he wants 1993 to be a "year of reform." He then adds: "I believe that the people strongly expect us to reform Japanese politics." He continues: "We have to respond to that expectation and realize political reform by all means."

Morita asks Ishida to explain in concrete terms, Komeito's action plan designed to study ideal ways of forming a new political power structure to replace the LDP's one-party government. After reviewing the formation of the New Japan Party and other political groups, and the Hata faction's split from the Takeshita faction of the LDP, Ishida says: "Such activities will become very active in the future. It is hard, under the circumstances, to say which party will immediately become an axis of political reform. However, I looked at the various movements from an overall viewpoint and came to the conclusion that these changes will create a chance for political reform. Therefore, Komeito welcomes the various movements. We need to talk about various matters with members of the newly formed groups. Komeito wants to play a certain role in reorganizing Japanese politics." Going back to the formation of the Hata faction, Ishida explains his hope that it will be linked to political reform in the future.

On the possibility of forming a new party with the new groups, Ishida states: "Komeito still has no concrete plans to talk about this matter with other parties. However, the Diet will be dissolved and there will be a general election this year. It seems that there will be active discussions immediately before and after the Diet dissolution. I believe that we will have the chance to talk with them on the formation of a new party." He adds: "We should not presume that a new party will be formed," and he continues: "We are determined to face the issue of forming a new party in order to realize political reform."

In response to Yamamoto's question on the general election, Ishida says that it is most likely to be held "after the summit."

On the resignation of SDPJ Chairman Tanabe and the possibility that the SDPJ may become a realistic party in the future, Ishida says he does not think that the chairman's resignation alone will change the party. At the same time, he explains his strong hope that the SDPJ will take a major step toward political reform.

Asked to explain Komeito's scheduled plans regarding the upcoming regular Diet session, which is scheduled to start in late January, Ishida states: "We will investigate the truth about the Sagawa scandal. For that purpose, we have to study the possibility of summoning Takeshita, who testified as a sworn witness, to the Diet again." He admits that the upcoming Diet session does not have sufficient time to thoroughly investigate the matter in order to reveal the truth. After explaining the need to realize political reform, Ishida reiterates that each party needs to submit draft proposals on reform to the Diet.

Touching on the government's fiscal 1992 budget to deal with economic stagnation, Ishida points out the need to launch measures to stimulate personal consumption. As one of the measures, Ishida explains the need to reduce income tax. He also says the defense budget can be reduced, if necessary, to cover a possible budget shortfall after the income tax reduction.

On liberalization of the rice market, Ishida is asked if he is against tarriffication without exception, he emphatically replies: "Yes, I am against it." He continues to criticize the government, saying: "I think that the government's unclear stance of accepting or not accepting rice liberalization is the cause of the people's distrust in politics."

At 0100 GMT Yamamoto and Morita end their interview with Ishida.

More Opposition Leader Interviews

OW0301061593

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 3 January 1993 broadcasts the second and final part of a two-part program of recorded interviews between opposition party leaders and NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto and NHK announcer Miyuki Morita. The program, which is 80-minutes long, consists of a 24-minute recorded interview with Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Communist Party of Japan [JCP], a 22-minute recorded interview with Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP], a 10-minute recorded interview with Satsuki Eda, representative of the Social Democratic Federation, a 10-minute recorded interview with Yasumatsu Hoshikawa, Rengo Sangiin representative, and six-minute recorded interviews with Shinei Kyan, representative of the Niin Club [the Second House Club] and Morihiro Hosokawa, representative of the New Japan Party. No mention is given as to when and where the interviews were conducted.

At 0001 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita begin interviewing Fuwa. After exchanging New Year greetings, Yamamoto asks Fuwa what he is going to do at the upcoming ordinary Diet session. In response, Fuwa notes the growing public demand for a thorough probe into the Sagawa Kyubin scandal and says that "to meet the public's demands, our party intends to probe into the scandal at the ordinary Diet session," adding that his party plans to work vigorously for economic recovery. Fuwa also says, "Our party intends to investigate the flow of the 500 million yen [Y] Mr. Kanemaru received from Sagawa Kyubin in the Diet." He adds that Mr. Kanemaru and former Prime Minister Takeshita did not tell the truth about their links with criminal syndicates in their testimonies before the Diet. Fuwa also stresses the need to call Mr. Takeshita to testify before the Diet when the extraordinary Diet session opens.

Asked by Morita about current moves to reorganize political parties, Fuwa says: "Although new trends, a new framework, and reform have been often mentioned, I believe that Japanese politics have reached an impasse. Looking at the domestic policy, political circles and big businesses are the key players. Regarding foreign policy, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the United States are the key players. No nations in the world, therefore, will approach Japan for discussions concerning international affairs, but they do approach Japan for discussions about money. I believe that no new trend of reform will emerge unless these points are changed."

Yamamoto asks Fuwa about the JCP's recent decision to expel honorary Chairman Nosaka, who allegedly communicated secretly with the Soviets, and he remarks, "Our party sent people to Moscow to investigate his case for three months, and they succeeded in obtaining documents concerning him before and after World War II," noting that Mr. Nosaka sent a letter to the Soviets that led to the execution of Mr. Genzo Yamamoto, a JCP leader at the time. Fuwa stresses that Mr. Nosaka maintained secret contacts with the Soviets even after the JCP cut ties with the CPSU.

In reply to a question from Morita regarding political reform, Fuwa notes the importance of banning political contributions from businesses and of fixing the current electoral system.

Fuwa goes on to discuss ways to stimulate the economy, stating that "at a meeting with the prime minister, I told him that fiscal priority should be given to small businesses." He also notes: "There is a sympathetic budget for U.S. military bases in Japan. Although the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty does not mention such a budget, the sympathetic budget amounts to as much as 228.6 billion yen. The government gives this amount of money at the request of the United States. I believe that this should not be permitted." Fuwa adds that the government should change its conventional methods of taking measures to stimulate the economy if it intends to truly spur the economy for the sake of the Japanese people.

Asked by Yamamoto about opening the Japanese rice market, Fuwa says: "I am opposed to opening up the Japanese rice market. Shortly after he reshuffled his cabinet, Prime Minister Miyazawa said that Japan should absolutely not destroy the Uruguay Round, and the media immediately headlined his remarks. I believe that his remarks sent a signal that if other nations, most of them farm exporters, draw a conclusion, Japan would go along with that conclusion. If Miyazawa does this, however, it will cause big problems." Fuwa stresses that Japan should not yield to any demands from farm produce-exporting nations for opening the rice market, citing the recent decline in Japan's food self-sufficiency rate.

At 0024 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita begin the interview with Ouchi.

After exchanging New Year greetings, Morita asks Ouchi to state his aspirations for the New Year. In response, Ouchi says, "in 1993, there will be brisk moves toward reorganizing political parties" and adds that he intends to become not a bystander, but a key player in changing Japanese politics. Ouchi also hints at the possibility that a new party may be formed before the lower house elections, and a great political upheaval for the reorganization of political parties will perhaps come after the elections.

Asked by Morita about what role his party will play in changing Japanese politics, Ouchi says that "how our party will participate in the reorganization of political parties will have a decisive effect on Japanese politics" and adds that it has become necessary to create a third political force, with the exception of the LDP and the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], to seize power. He also stressed that Japan should transform itself into a nation capable of contributing to the international community.

Asked by Yamamoto about the constitutional amendment, Ouchi says: "There is a question of how Japan should use its strength. When we think about Japan's contributions to the international community, we have to think of how the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] should be dealt with, and this raises problems involving the Constitution. If the cause for the current confusion over Japan's contributions to the world community lies with the Constitution, politicians should be responsible for making the Constitution clear to everyone who reads it. In that sense, the Constitution should not be regarded as taboo." Ouchi also stresses the need to rewrite the Constitution, saying that former West Germany amended its constitution on 36 occasions, and other nations, including the United States, amend their constitutions. Ouchi definitely says that the "Constitution should not be kept fixed," adding that his party will deal positively with the matter to keep the public's view of the Constitution from splitting. Asked by Yamamoto if he intends to examine rewriting the Constitution, Ouchi says, "Yes, I will examine the issue."

Yamamoto asks Obuchi about how he will seek to forge political alliances with other political parties, who replies that the "New Japan Party, led by Mr. Hosokawa, shares similar policies with our party," hinting at the possibility of his party forging a political alliance with the Hata faction within the LDP.

Asked by Yamamoto when the lower house elections will be held, Ouchi says that the "elections will be held shortly after the Tokyo Summit, if the economy shows signs of taking a favorable turn after next summer."

Asked by Yamamoto about the future of the SDPJ following Chairman Tanabe's announcement of his resignation, Ouchi says: "I wonder if the SDPJ will be able to transform itself into a new party capable of running the government after Mr. Tanabe resigns as chairman. I am pessimistic about the future of that party," and he stresses the need to form a third political force, citing the SDPJ's inability to change itself.

Morita inquires about the forthcoming ordinary Diet session, and Ouchi stresses the need for the Diet to probe further into the Sagawa Kyubin scandal, adding that it is necessary to set up a special committee in the Diet to investigate the scandal. Ouchi says, "Our party will definitely demand and continue to demand Mr. Takeshita's resignation from the Diet if this is what the people want." Discussing domestic political issues, Ouchi says, "The new U.S. Administration, to be led by President-elect Clinton, is expected to make various demands on Japan, and those political issues need to be settled quickly."

Asked by Morita about the LDP-proposed single-seat constituency system for the House of Representatives, Ouchi says, "Our party has prepared an alternative plan for the system."

Yamamoto questions Ouchi about measures to spur the economy, and he responds by saying "it is necessary to stimulate the economy by expanding personal spending and building more housing," adding that it is essential to cut income taxes to expand personal spending.

In answer to queries by Yamamoto concerning the opening of Japan's rice market, Ouchi remarks: "The United States and the EC reportedly have reached an agreement, but in reality they have yet to reach one. The United States and European nations are providing their farmers with huge subsides. While they intend to cut only 21 percent of the subsidies in six years, leaving 79 percent of them intact, they are making various demands on Japan. This is unreasonable. If the United States abolished the waiver clause and the Meat Import Law, and European nations stopped providing their farmers with subsidies, Japan would consider opening its rice market for the sake of international cooperation. At a time when the United States and European nations are making no efforts to that end, I cannot agree with any measure that may devastate Japan's key industry." Ouchi asserts that Japan is not isolated from the rest of the world, saying that "such a thing will not happen" and adding that Japan should assert its national interests.

At 0046 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita begin the interview with Eda.

After discussing Mr. Tanabe's announcement of his resignation and the current political situation, Yamamoto asks Eda about prospects for reorganizing the political parties. In response, Eda predicts that the reorganization of political parties will come after the lower house elections.

At 0056 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita begin the interview with Hoshikawa. Discussing political reform, Hoshikawa stresses the need to rebuild the current political structure, which impedes changes in power. He adds that he intends to forge an alliance with various political groups.

At 0105 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita begin the interview with Kyan. Discussing the Sagawa Kyubin scandal, Kyan says that the parliamentary probe into the scandal was inadequate and stresses the need to make a thorough probe into the scandal in the Diet.

At 0111 GMT, Yamamoto and Morita begin the interview with Hosokawa. Discussing the reorganization of political parties, Hosokawa predicts that a climate will be created for reorganizing the parties before the lower house elections are held and revealed that his party is now talking with other political parties on forming a political alliance. Hosokawa rules out the possibility of his party forging any alliance with the Hata faction in the LDP.

Yamamoto and Morita end the last interview at 0120 GMT.

Watanabe Suggests House Dissolution in Apr

OW0301064893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 3 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe hinted Sunday that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa may be forced to dissolve the House of Representatives in April and call general elections.

He dropped the hint in a speech in Kanuma in his native prefecture of Tochigi.

Watanabe gave no specific reasons for the possibility of a dissolution of the lower house other than to say that such a scenario is likely depending on deliberations in the Diet.

Otherwise, he predicted, the lower house will be dissolved in late July after the July 7-9 Tokyo economic summit of seven major industrialized countries.

BOJ Note Issues Balance Declines in 1992

OW3112111092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 31 KYODO—The balance of notes issued by the Bank of Japan at the end of 1992 was down 2.1 percent from a year earlier for the first yearly decline in 38 years, the Bank of Japan announced in a revised report issued Thursday.

The figure attests to the nation's economic downturn due in part to the collapse of the asset inflation-caused bubble economy in the late 1980s, financial analysts said.

The year-end balance came to 39,026.3 billion yen, showing the first decline since a 1.2 percent fall in 1954, the central bank said.

BOJ officials attributed the 1992 decline to lackluster real estate and stock deals and weak demand for funds among households, reflecting the slumbering economy.

The average balance for December alone, however, was up 2.0 percent from a year earlier, compared with growth rates of around 1 percent in the first half of 1992.

The December upturn prompted the central bank to believe that the note issue balance has hit bottom.

North Korea

Kim Il-song Delivers New Year Address

SK0101011593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 1 Jan 93

["New Year address" delivered by President Kim Il-song at a joint meeting of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, DPRK Central People's Committee, and Administration Council in Kumsusan Assembly Hall on 31 December—recorded]

[Text] [applause] Dear comrades and brothers and sisters and fellow countrymen: Sending off the significant year that will be brilliant forever in the history of the fatherland, we are greeting 1993, a new year full of hope. [applause]

Greeting the New Year, I extend warm congratulations and greetings to all people in the northern half of the Republic, brothers in the South, and all overseas compatriots including Korean residents in Japan. [applause]

I also send my New Year greetings to the progressive people of the world, and friends who are advancing along the road to independence, peace, and socialism. [applause]

The year 1992 was one of proud victory and glory during which our party and all people vigorously demonstrated the justness and invincibility of socialism by overcoming difficulties and trials with single-hearted unity and with one intention. [applause]

Last year the imperialists and reactionaries persistently maneuvered to isolate and suffocate our Republic—the stronghold of socialism—and to eradicate our socialist cause. T hey were, however, unable to block our people's march.

Our people are not people to give up the revolutionary faith and principle in the face of any pressure and temptation. No matter how the winds blow, our people will not abandon their road and follow another road.

Whenever our people have been faced with a challenge, they have advanced while highly upholding the chuche-oriented revolutionary banner. By vigorously waging struggle, they have achieved a brilliant success in socialist construction. [applause] By so doing, our people have been faithful to their historical cause and rewarded the people's belief and expectation. [applause]

Through a more worthwhile struggle last year, our people have been more tempered. The unity and solidarity between the party and the popular masses have been further consolidated. In addition, the self-reliant national economic foundation on which we can live with our own strength, even under any difficult condition, has been firmly laid. [applause]

We can have greater strength politically, ideologically, and materially. We can foresee a greater, victorious future. [applause]

I wholeheartedly thank our working class, peasants, intellectuals, and People's Army's soldiers. I wholeheartedly thank all people who have contributed to strengthening socialist guardposts and to advancing the chuche revolutionary cause by bringing into full play the endless loyalty and devoted spirit to the party and leader in the last year. [applause]

This year is a significant year that will mark the 45th anniversary of the victory of the great Fatherland Liberation War. [applause]

During the Fatherland Liberation War, our people and People's Army firmly rallied around the party, brought into full play the indomitable fighting spirit and unrivaled devoted spirit, and heroically struggled. Thereby, they smashed the imperialists' armed invasion, heroically defending the freedom and independence of the fatherland, and demonstrated our people's revolutionary mettle to the whole world. [applause]

Today's situation is demanding that our people, with the fighting spirit and mettle they displayed during the arduous wartime, continue to wage a vigorous struggle. Smashing all challenges and obstructive maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries, defending and safeguarding our socialism, and further adding luster to our socialism are glorious tasks facing our party and people today.

While upholding the slogan "Let the party, the people, and the Army single-heartedly unite and complete the socialist cause to the end," all party members and working people should bring into full play the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and the masses-oriented heroism. They should vigorously accelerate the socialist construction and should further bring into full play the superiority of our country's socialism. [applause]

Our country's socialism is the socialism centered on the popular masses in which the chuche idea is embodied. In our country, all the people are the genuine masters of the state and society, enjoying the loftiest and happiest life in all fields of politics, economy, and culture.

Our society thoroughly ensures the people's political right legally and socially. Our society is free from any social evils that infringe upon and trample underfoot the people's dignity. Our society, therefore, is the most politically stabilized society. [applause]

In our country, in which the state entirely ensures and takes responsibility for the people's life, the people are free from worry and anxiety concerning food, clothing, and shelter. Everyone can have jobs according to their temperament and abilities, enjoying a creative work existence. An unemployed man or a beggar are not seen in our country.

Thanks to the benefits of the free medical care system, the people have enjoyed long life and good health in our country. With the most advanced free-obligatory-educational system realized, all people can learn to their heart's content and develop themselves during their lifetime.

Based on the collective principle "One for all and all for one," all social members compose a big family, help and lead each other, and share weal and woe. These are the important characteristics of our society. This is the superiority of the essence of our society. [applause]

The dignity and happy life which our people enjoy are inconceivable in an exploitive class society. They can only be ensured in the socialist society. Without socialism, the happiness we have today and the hope for tomorrow would be inconceivable for our people. Socialism is precisely our people's life and lifeline. [applause]

Defending, safeguarding, and adding luster to our socialism, gained through the long and bloody struggle, are the only ways for our people's glorious life and victory. [applause]

Our party's revolutionary principle and line in socialist construction are firm and unchangeable. Under any difficult and complicated circumstance, our socialist cause has advanced along the single road of victory without failure and frustration. This is because our party has consistently maintained the chuche-oriented revolutionary principle and lines. [applause]

We should constantly and firmly maintain the principles of chuche ideology, independence in politics, self-sufficiency in economy, and self-reliance in national defense. These principles' vitality and validity have been clearly confirmed through historical tribulations. While firmly upholding the general line of socialist construction, we should more vigorously carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural. [applause]

The popular masses' mental and ideological unity is the wellspring of our strength, and the decisive guarantee for all victories.

History shows that when (?revolutionary) and ideological unity among the popular masses is strengthened and when, thus, the ideological fortress is consolidated, socialism will possess invincible power. We must strongly arm all the workers with the chuche idea and further strengthen single-hearted unity between the party and the popular masses by vigorously carrying out the ideological revolution. [applause]

Realizing our people's earnest desire for every to eat rice and meat soup, wear silk clothes, and live in a tile-roofed house is an important goal of socialist construction. We must further consolidate our economic self-reliant basis and rapidly improve the people's material and cultural lives by vigorously accelerating socialist and communist construction this year. [applause]

The key areas on which we should concentrate our efforts in economic construction are the coal industry, electric power industry, and metallurgical industry. In particular, it is important to give priority to the coal industry. Only when we significantly increase coal production can we resolve the problem of power shortages and normalize production in the metallurgical industry and various other fields of the people's economy.

We must concentrate our investment on the coal industry and other leading sectors of the people's economy and provide them with all the conditions for production on a priority basis to score upsurges in production in these sectors ahead of other sectors. [applause]

The light industrial sector must map out positive measures to improve boldly technology and operate facilities at full capacity, efficiently utilize the existing potential for production, and further increase the production of people's consumer goods by giving priority to their production on a state level. [applause]

In the traffic and transportation sector, we must further consolidate the material and technological basis of the railways and thoroughly implement the party's policy on carrying out a revolution in transportation, thus satisfactorily meeting the demands for transportation in the people's economy. [applause]

In the agricultural sector, this year, we must thoroughly fulfill the requirements of the chuche-oriented farming method and vigorously wage a struggle to increase agricultural production. At a time when the problems of irrigation and seeding have been solved, a key to significantly increasing agricultural production by implementing the chuche-oriented farming method is a sufficient supply of fertilizers to the rural areas. The chemical industry and other pertinent sectors must responsibly produce and supply chemical fertilizers in a timely manner. [applause]

This year, we must build not only 30,000 housing units in Pyongyang but also houses in cities and rural areas on a large scale. In this way, we must provide the people with better conditions for cultural living. [applause]

We must more vigorously carry out the cultural revolution and newly develop science, education, public health, culture and arts, sports, and all the other fields of cultural construction. Our intellectuals must have pride as the party's revolutionary warriors and fully display their creativity and wisdom. In this way, they must positively contribute to socialist cultural construction and thus meet the people's high expectations. [applause]

We must concentrate our efforts on strengthening the country's defense capability in response to the enemy's aggression maneuvers. We must thoroughly implement the policy of converting the entire army into a cadre army, modernizing the entire army, arming all the people, and turning the entire country into a fortress. In this way, we must strengthen the revolutionary armed forces and further consolidate the all-people's defense system.

All soldiers of the People's Army, members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards, and members of the Young Red Guards must politically, militarily, and technologically prepare themselves in a revolutionary manner so that they can reliably defend security in the fatherland, and the socialist cause. [applause]

Whether we can achieve success in revolution and construction depends on how well we organize and mobilize the popular masses' revolutionary fervor and creativity. As required by the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method and the Taean work system created by our party, all the guiding officials must give top priority to political work, mobilize the masses in waging struggles and scoring feats, and thoroughly carry out operations and organizational work to implement the party's lines and policies.

All the functionaries must work in a militant manner with the high revolutionary spirit, and fill the entire society with the revolutionary spirit of living and struggling life heroes. [applause]

Our party and the government of the Republic have always waged a positive struggle to reunify the fatherland based on the principle of national independence. For the past 20 years since our party presented the three major principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity by implementing the idea of achieving reunification based on national independence, the movement to reunify the fatherland has constantly expanded and developed on a pan-national basis. In its course, North-South dialogue has developed on a high level. Consequently, the North and South adopted and achieved the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange and the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a momentous progress. [applause]

Today, when all our fellow countrymen, filled with hope and expectation, are looking forward to the achievement of reunification in an immediate future, the South Korean authorities are hindering the implementation of the North-South agreement and planning to resume the provocative Team Spirit joint military exercise under an unreasonable pretext. This is an antinational act designed to fulfill an insidious purpose of negating the principle of reunification based on national independence and relying on outside force.

The reunification which our fellow countrymen hope for is a reunification for realizing national independence, not a reunification for living subjugated to other people.

If we wanted to live under subordination to others, then it would not have been necessary to wage the long, arduous struggle for national liberation. It would also not have been necessary to carry out the struggle against invasion and outside interference of outside forces. It would not have been necessary to make the various sacrifices since national liberation up to present.

The principle of national independence is the basic principle for national reunification which cannot be conceded. Talking about dialogue and reunification by denying this principle is a mockery to the nation and it is intolerable.

The party and the government of the Republic will in the future continue to make efforts to achieve national reunification through the manner of the confederal system based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments. It will do this on the basis of national independence. [applause]

If anyone comes to us with a sincere attitude of truly resolving the issue of national reunification based on the position of national independence, we will sit face to face with him without questioning his past. We will discuss the issue of national reunification frankly and candidly. We will try to achieve the cause of national reunification together with him. [applause]

The issue of national reunification is not only a national question which our people should resolve as the main force, but is also a concrete problem for which the related countries should actively cooperate with a sense of responsibility.

For the related countries to resolve the Korean question, which is a product of the Cold War, they should boldly discard the outdated policies of the Cold War era.

It is not an attitude for removing consequences of the Cold War to continuously adhere to the unilateral policy of the Cold War era while threatening us militarily and applying economic pressure on us. Such an attitude goes against current trends.

Only when the responsible countries stand on the position to resolve fairly the Korean issue in compliance with the demand of the times and with the principle of international justice can they fulfill the responsibility and duties they hold for the Korean issue. This will have a good influence on improving relations between our country and these countries.

Obstacles and difficulties still lie on the road of national reunification. The cause for national reunification, however, of our people, who are advancing in accordance with the principle of national independence, will be victorious without fail. [applause]

Although the present international situation is complex, there is no change in independent foreign policies of the government of our Republic.

The government of our Republic will in the future continue implementing its foreign policy on independence, peace and friendship. [applause]

We will firmly maintain the independence under any complex situation. We will remain faithful to the revolutionary principle and to international obligations. We will make every effort to develop the friendship and cooperative relations with the people in many countries of the world, including the socialist countries and nonaligned countries, in a bid to achieve the independence of the whole world. [applause]

Our revolutionary cause is just. Our country's popular mass-centered socialism is ever-victorious and invincible. [applause]

As long as there exists the chuche idea which brightly illuminates our future, the correct guidance of the party which is leading the people to victory, and the people who are loyally upholding the party's leadership and who have attained firm unity and cohesion, no strength can block the path of our people who are marching forward by highly flying the banner of socialism in the East. [applause]

Let us all vigorously march forward to a new victory in firm unity with the party Central Committee! [applause]

Kim Il-song Receives, Sends New Year Messages

Nationals in Japan Send Greetings

SK0201094093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—The great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song received a message of New Year's greetings from Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

The message notes that last year the great leader with an outstanding and tested leadership won a proud victory in the course of accomplishing the revolutionary cause of chuche by turning the complex situation favorable and brought the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses to a new, higher plane by strengthening the driving force of the revolution.

You opened a bright vista for the reunification of the country in the 1990s, great leader, by wisely guiding the nationwide struggle for the success of the third pannational rally and the implementation of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization, smashing the machinations of the domestic and foreign separatist forces, the message says.

You wisely guided the progressive people of the world to confidently keep to the cause of anti-imperialism and independence, by indicating the true path of reconstructing socialism and making the world independent, it says.

Last year, it notes, you sent a New Year message to Chongnyon and a congratulatory message to the 16th congress of Chongnyon, highly estimating Chongnyon as a brilliant example of the overseas Koreans' movement worldwide and lighting the path of Chongnyon, the message recalls.

Chongnyon owes the achievements in the fulfilment of the patriotic tasks including that for national reunification last year to the outstanding leadership and paternal affection of you, the great leader, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for the development of the work of Chongnyon, the message says.

In the significant New Year, we will strengthen all the organizations of Chongnyon, closely unite all the Koreans in Japan and build Chongnyon as a dependable unit, patriotic and loyal, the message stresses.

It wishes Generalissimo Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Sends Greetings to Chongnyon Leader

SK0201094193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0821 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song on January 1 sent a message of greetings to Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan (Chongnyon) on the New Year 1993.

The message says that the Chongnyon functionaries and compatriots in Japan last year, rallied ever closer around the government of the Republic, firmly defended the socialist homeland and successfully fulfilled the honorable patriotic tasks facing it, keeping pace with the vigorous onward movement of the people in the homeland.

It is the most precious success achieved by Chongnyon that it has thoroughly established the ideological and leadership systems of chuche within its organisations and laid a solid foundation for carrying forward the movement of the Koreans in Japan through generations, the message notes.

It points out that Chongnyon, under the banner of great national unity, has recorded many successes in the work of strengthening unity with the compatriots of all strata and deepening friendship and solidarity with the Japanese people.

I note with satisfaction and high appreciation that the Chongnyon officials and compatriots last year creditably fulfilled its honorable patriotic tasks with intense loyalty to the socialist homeland under difficult conditions in which the situation in the surrounding areas was complex and the reactionaries within and without became more malicious than ever before in their anti-DPRK and anti-Chongnyon campaigns, says the message.

In the new year, it stresses, the Chongnyon officials and compatriots, with the conviction of certain victory in the socialist cause of chuche, should exalt its honor as a dependable defender of the socialist homeland and an overseas Koreans organisation of chuche overflowing with patriotic loyalty, by strengthening Chongnyon organisationally and ideologically and lifting the patriotic work to a higher stage in all fields.

Receives Greetings From Hanminjon

SK0201093793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0808 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received a message of greetings from the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) on the New Year 1993.

The message says that the great leader last year gave full scope to the inexhaustible vitality and advantages of the chuche-based socialism centered on the popular masses by leading the whole party, the whole country and the entire people to the performance of new miracles and exploits.

In face of the great might of socialist Korea of chuche which is making a long drive under your ever-victorious leadership, says the message, the imperialists' "theory of the end" of socialism has burst like soap bubbles and Korea is throwing brilliant rays as a fortress of peace and progress and the beacon of hope for mankind.

Your undisputed authority and immortal greatness, respected leader, is the source of the immense might of Hanminjon and symbol of its hope.

The victory of the movement for a change in South Korea is certain because there is you, respected leader, declares the message, and adds: We are resolved to imbue Hanminjon ranks with the chuche idea with redoubled efforts and unite the strength so as to invigorate the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification.

The message wishes President Kim Il-song a long life in good health.

Exchanges Cards With Foreign Leaders

SK0201094493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged New Year's cards with heads of state and party leaders of different countries.

He exchanged them with Deng Xiaoping, former chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC; Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China; Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the PRC; Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Li Ruihuan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Zhu Rongji, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council of the PRC; Chen Yun, former chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC; Peng Zhen, former chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Song Ping, former member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Le Duc Anh, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Nouhak Phoumsavanh, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Wee Kim Wee, president of the Republic of Singapore; Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia; Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Dawda Kairaba Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia; Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia; H. Kamuzu Banda, president of the Republic of Malawi; Cassam Uteem, president of the Republic of Mauritius; Anerood Jugnauth, prime minister of the Republic of Mauritius; Pierre Buyoya, president of the Republic of Burundi; Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea; Robert G. Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe; Ali Hasan Mwinyi, president of the United Republic of Tanzania; Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda; Howard Cooke, governor-general of Jamaica; Ion Iliescu, president of Romania; Nursultan A. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Walid Jumblatt, president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon; Rolf Hagel, chairman of the Workers' Party-Communists of Sweden; Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Guidance Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal; and Gyula Thurmer, president of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

Greetings From Middle East, Africa

SK0301085593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0805 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 3 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received messages of greetings on the occasion of the New Year 1993 from Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Andre Kolingba, president and head of state of the Central African Republic; Burhanuddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of United Arab Emirates; Dobrica Cosic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Said Muhammad Jaffar, president of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros; Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait; 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran; B. Dashyondon, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party; and Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua.

In the messages they expressed the belief that the close relations of friendship and cooperation between the WPK and their parties, the DPRK and their countries, would continue to develop favourably.

They wished President Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Kim Chong-il Receives, Sends New Year Messages

Receives Message From Hanminjon

SK0201094693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0834 GMT 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a message of New Year's greetings from the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea (Hanminjon).

The message recalls that last year the dear leader with his extraordinary leadership and outstanding resources smashed every move of the imperialists' vicious policy of blockade and reformist scheme, defended the chuche cause and brought honour to chuche Korea as an impregnable bastion of socialism.

Last year, you wisely guided all Koreans in the South, the North and overseas, dear leader, to make a great stride forward in the struggle for reunification, the message notes. It says that Comrade Kim Chong-il is the lodestar of freedom and liberation and the centre of national reunification.

The message expresses the resolution to bring about a new historic phase in the anti-U.S., anti-fascist movement for national salvation this year, accelerate the modelling of the ranks of Hanminjon on the chuche idea, awaken and organize all people and open a decisive phase for the victory of the revolutionary movement.

It wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life.

Receives Message From Chongnyon Head

SK0201094893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0838 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—The dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il received a message of New Year's greetings from Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

The message notes that under the outstanding guidance of the dear leader, the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses has reached a high plane in Korea, which has been strengthened as a superior model of socialism which unreservedly demonstrates worldwide the invincible might of Korean-style socialism centred on the masses.

Last year, you paid special attention to the movement of Koreans in Japan and showed deep loving care for it, the message says.

Last year, it goes on, Chongnyon firmly established the ideological and leadership systems of chuche in the organization, united the Koreans in Japan around it and achieved mass innovation in the fulfilment of the patriotic tasks.

Referring to the tasks of Chongnyon this year, the message expresses the resolution to deeply trust and follow only the great leader and the dear leader and resolutely defend the socialist homeland of chuche, no matter which way the wind may blow.

It sincerely wishes the dear leader good health and long life.

Exchanges Cards With Foreign Leaders

SK0201095393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0845 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged New Year's cards with heads of state and party leaders of different countries.

He exchanged cards with Deng Xiaoping, former chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPC; Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China; Li Peng, premier of the State Council of the PRC; Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Li Ruihuan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Zhu Rongji, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice premier of the State Council of the PRC; Chen Yun, former chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC; Peng Zhen, former chairman of the Standing

Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Song Ping, former member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Nouhak Phoumsavanh, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Republic of Mozambique; Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea; Nicloas Mayugi, chairman of the Central Committee of the Burundi Party of Unity for National Progress; Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Guidance Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal; and Gyula Thurmer, president of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

Kim Il-song, Leaders Attend New Year Meeting

SK0301012593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2114 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Excerpts] A grand meeting to welcome New Year 1993 was held in the presence of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. A splendid meeting to greet New Year 1993 was held in the Pyongyang Gymnasium on 31 December in the presence of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people. [passage omitted]

The following attended the meeting: Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and minister of People's Armed Forces; Comrades Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice presidents; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council, and foreign minister; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; Comrades Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho and Han Song-yong, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretaries of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Chol-man, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrades Choe Yong-nim, Kim Tal-hyon, Hong Song-nam, and Kang Hui-won, candidate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrades Kim Chung-nin, Yun Ki-pok, So Kwan-hui, Hwang Chang-yop, and Pak Nam- ki, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Hwan, Kim Pok-sin, Kim Chang-chu, Kim Yun-hyok, and Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the State Inspection Commission; Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party; members and candidate members of the WPK Central Committee; deputies to the SPA; responsible functionaries from organizations of the party and government, administration and economic organizations, public organizations, central organizations and responsible functionaries from scientific, educational, cultural, art, public health, publication and press domains; generals of the KPA; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; bereaved families of the revolutionary martyrs; scientists; meritorious persons; soldiers of the KPA; workers, youth and students in the city. [passage omitted]

PRC Students Attend New Year Party

SK0101103093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0950 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 1 (KCNA)—A friendship gathering of Korean and Chinese students took place at Kim Il-song University on the evening of December 31 on the occasion of the New Year.

Present at the gathering were students and teachers of Kim Il-song University, Kim Chaek University of Technology, Wonsan University of Agriculture and other universities and Chinese students studying in Korea.

Speeches were made there.

Then the participants sang songs of the two countries and danced, mixed with one another, deepening the feelings of friendship.

Ministry Hosts Party for Military Attaches

SK3112044892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces Wednesday arranged a cocktail party for the military attaches of foreign embassies in Korea on the occasion of the new year of 1993.

Present there with the guests were Vice-Minister of People's Armed Forces Kim Kwang-chin, Gen. Chon Chae-son and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army.

Speeches were made at the cocktail party.

Kim Il-song Sends Stipend to Nationals in Japan

SK3112110792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1051 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song, greeting the New Year 1993, sent 123,800,000 yen (in Japanese currency) of educational aid fund and stipends for democratic national education by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

The educational aid fund and stipends sent by President Kim Il-song for the children of Korean residents in Japan in 122 instalments total 41,472,242,433 yen.

Daily Urges Japan To Apologize for Past Crimes

SK3112052892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0427 GMT 31 Dec 92

["Japan's Past Doings Must Be Fully Liquidated"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—If the question of developing a good-neighbourly relationship between Korea and Japan is to be solved correctly, Japan must fully liquidate the crimes committed by Japan against the Korean people in the past, stresses NODONG SINMUN today.

Noting that the Japanese authorities are resorting to every conceivable petty trick to avoid their obligation to make an apology and compensation, the analyst says:

They are pitching hard for overseas expansion and for the extension of the sphere of their influence under the pretext of Japan's "contribution to peace" and its "role" in the settlement of international problems.

If Japan, refusing to properly liquidate its past full of crimes and trying to repeat it, became a political and military power armed with nuclear weapons, it would have a grave, irrevocable effect on peace and security of Asia and the rest of the world.

The Asian people including the Japanese are now expressing deep apprehensions for the attempt of Japan to repeat its crime-ridden history, refusing to fully liquidate its past doings and seeking to become a military power.

The Japanese authorities must look straight at the trend of the time and honestly apologize and compensate for old Japan's crimes before anything else. It will help Japan become a genuinely peaceful and prosperous state and develop true good-neighbourly relations with other countries.

Pyongyang To Recognize Czech Republic, Slovakia

SK0201044393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0400 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] The DPRK Government agreed with the governments of the Czech Republic and Slovakia to establish diplomatic relations by recognizing these republics.

The DPRK Government, recognizing the Czech Republic and Slovakia respectively, agreed to form ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations with these countries effective 1 January 1993 in a bid to develop friendship and cooperative relations based on independence, equality, reciprocity and non-intervention in domestic affairs.

Kim Il-song Congratulates New Afghan President

SK0201095793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0850 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings on January 1 to Borhanoddin Rabbani on his election as president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The message wishes the Afghan president success in his responsible work and expresses the belief that the friendly relations between the two peoples will continue to develop favorably.

Workers' Party Congratulates Chilean Leaders

SK0201095593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0847 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang January 2 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a message of greetings to German Correa Diaz and Luis Maira upon their respective election as chairman and general secretary of the Socialist Party of Chile.

Expressing the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation forged between the two parties will be continuously strengthened and developed in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the message wished big success in the activities of the Socialist Party of Chile and in their responsible work for democracy in the country and the interests of the working masses.

Kim Chong-il Attends Folk Dance Performance

SK3112091192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], saw the performance of folk dance suite, "Song of Seasons."

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, saw the folk dance suite, "Song of Seasons," performed by artists of "Sea of Blood" opera troupe, at Pyongyang grand theater.

Kye Ung-tae, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of WPK Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok and Comrade Kim Yong-sun, alternate members of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Kim Tal-hyon, alternate member of the Political Bureau, vice premier of the Administration Council, and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Comrade Kim Ki-nam, Comrade Kim Kuk-tae, Comrade Kim Chung-nin, and Comrade Yun Ki-pok, members of the WPK Central Committee and secretaries of the party Committee; Comrade Chang Chol, member of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council, and minister of Culture and Art; functionaries concerned; and functionaries of the fields of culture, art, and the press and publications saw the performance. [passage omitted]

Daily Denounces Team Spirit Exercise

SK0101131393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0021 GMT 29 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 29 December special article: "The Team Spirit Joint Military Exercise Is the Product of the U.S. Imperialists' Aggressive Asian Strategy"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The Team Spirit joint military exercise is a grave challenge to the people who want peace on Korea. This is a planned and provocative plot to block their cause for peaceful reunification.

The United States and South Korean authorities have recently decided to resume the exercise next year, which they suspended this year, while talking about the doubts concerning our so-called nuclear development.

This is a very dangerous military move against the trends of times moving in the direction of detente as a result of the collapse of the Cold War structure. This contradicts the overall situation on the Korean peninsula moving toward detente and reconciliation. This is also a strong challenge to all Korean people and the world's peace-loving people who want peace and the peaceful reunification of Korea and is a grave threat to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise is the product of the U.S. imperialists' aggressive Asian strategy. It is their unchanged strategy to dominate the world with their own might. They consider Asia to be important in implementing their world policy.

The aim of U.S. Asian policy is to dominate Northeast Asia. What is important in their policy is to keep hold on South Korea, a major military strategic vantage, a colony, and military base. Based on this policy, they want to dominate all Korea and the Asian continent.

U.S. bosses have regarded it as a basic military policy toward Asia and as their important tasks to occupy South Korea as the strongpoint of their military bases. They have also defined South Korea as an important country for the implementation of their world strategy.

The U.S. imperialists have made South Korea a colony, a military base, and a nuclear forward base to realize their criminal purpose. To ignite a global thermonuclear war on the Korean peninsula, they have conducted a test nuclear war in South Korea, such as the Team Spirit joint military exercise. It is clear why they want to find the new ignition points of a thermonuclear war from Korea. This is because South Korea is, first of all, their military strategic position.

South Korea is a continental military bridgehead already occupied by the United States. Therefore, the United States does not need to deploy its new aggressive armed forces in South Korea. It is also a nuclear forward base located in the west frontline of the United States' nuclear base network in Japan and the Pacific.

Using this strategic position, the U.S. imperialists plan to break out nuclear war against our republic to realize their aggressive ambition to dominate the whole Korean peninsula and, furthermore, to expand its domination into other countries in Asia.

The U.S. imperialists want to break out nuclear war on the Korean peninsula. This is because South Korea is of great advantage to the United States for preserving its nuclear bases. This is also because they miscalculate that they can easily realize their wicked scheme for nuclear war provocation on the Korean peninsula, using the strained tension on the peninsula caused by the sharp military confrontation between the North and South.

As everyone knows, the preservation and management of nuclear weapons is very complicated and dangerous. Therefore, to maintain a nuclear base, its safety must be guaranteed.

From this point of view, the U.S. imperialists regard South Korea as the most appropriate place to maintain their nuclear base because South Korea is a colonial military base occupied by U.S. troops and because the United States exercises its military commanding control and all other rights in South Korea. This is also because the South Korean Government is faithfully fulfilling its master's orders.

In the meantime, the United States has turned South Korea into a base for nuclear attack. It calculates that it can make a pretext for a nuclear war provocation on the Korean peninsula at any time, if necessary, while conducting nuclear war exercises, such as the Team Spirit.

Therefore, the United States continued bringing nuclear weapons into South Korea even when it had withdrawn its nuclear missiles from Europe. It acts as if it had withdrawn nuclear weapons from South Korea. It is disclosed, however, that U.S nuclear weapons are hidden in South Korea, and that its submarines carrying nuclear weapons are entering there.

Even when armed conflict breaks out in other countries and in other regions, the U.S. authorities attempt to use this conflict as nuclear blackmail against Korea.

Former U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger said: The United States will take military action on the Korean peninsula and launch a nuclear attack against North Korea to secure the oil deposit zone in the Middle East when conflict breaks out. In addition, a U.S. Defense Department official said: The United States will form a second front in the Far East when a military conflict breaks out in Europe.

The U.S. imperialists have fixed South Korea as a central place for the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a nuclear war exercise. They have escalated the exercise every year since the mid-1970's. Although they suspended the exercise this year at our strong demands, they decided to resume it next year under a preposterous pretext. This is not coincidental at all.

As it was widely disclosed, the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war to carry out a preemptive strike against the northern half of our republic.

The U.S. imperialists have recently mobilized in this war exercise armed forces of more than 200,000 troops, enough to launch a total war. This is double the armed forces mobilized by the United States to start the past Korean war.

By mobilizing a great number of troops, several hundred warships—including the U.S. 7th Fleet and its nuclear aircraft carrier—2,000 various planes, including tactical and combined flying corps, and many ultramodern equipment, such as chemical weapons and lens missiles capable of firing nuclear warheads, the United States has conducted war exercises to simulate attacking the northern half of the republic from the sky, land, and sea.

The U.S. Strategic Command troops are mobilized in these war exercises. Even EA-4B, a nuclear [word indistinct], which will be the U.S. President's aerial command post in time of the overall nuclear war, was mobilized there. This shows that the Team Spirit war exercise conducted in South Korea can be turned into a nuclear war at any time.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers have made an unjust decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise under the pretext of the doubts concerning the North's nuclear development. Our Republic's government has presented a great number of peaceful proposals, including a comprehensive disarmament proposal, to secure a durable peace on the Korean peninsula. Accordingly, it has taken steps to reduce unilaterally the armed forces.

We are sincerely carrying out the international obligation in accordance with the Nuclear Safeguards Accord. We are also using nuclear energy only for peaceful purpose. In addition, the purity of our Republic Government's nuclear policy has been already verified through the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] unannounced inspections on many occasions.

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers have decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which they suspended before the beginning of the IAEA's inspections of the DPRK, under the pretext of nuclear suspicion. This cannot be justified in any way.

Some time ago, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities signed the Wartime Host Nations Support agreement and prepared a legal device to reinforce the U.S. aggressive forces in South Korea, whenever they need. They have recently agreed to mobilize the armed forces of the U.S. Navy and its Air Force into South Korea as a rapid mobilization deterrent forces prior to the emergency on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. and South Korean authorities are kicking up a commotion, talking about the nuclear development we are not conducting. By so doing, they are going to commit a war provocation at any time on the Korean peninsula by reinforcing their troops, while conducting a large-scale war exercise such as the Team Spirit. This is clear to everyone.

The U.S. and South Korean authorities decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. This is a violent infringement to the North-South agreement and the joint denuclerization declaration.

The North-South agreement and the joint denuclerization declaration are the historic documents in which the North and the South solemnly pledged to reconciliate and unite—not to fight against each other—and to eliminate the danger of nuclear war. Therefore, no one can violate and nullify them on their own.

Even the United States should respect the North-South agreement and the joint denuclerization declaration. It should not block their implementation.

If U.S. and South Korean authorities finally conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year despite our protest and warnings, they will be held totally responsible for any consequences.

The U.S. imperialists should clearly see the trends of the times and unconditionally stop conducting the Team Spirit joint military exercise. They should immediately withdraw their aggressive troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The South Korean authorities should not follow their nuclear war plot against the fellow countrymen, following outside forces. They should, however, choose the road to implement the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration which they pledged before all fellow countrymen and the world.

Daily Stresses Importance of Party Strengthening

SK3112104792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 31 Dec 92

["Strengthening Party and Enhancing Its Leading Role Is Decisive Guarantee for Accomplishing Socialist Cause"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today runs a by-lined article titled "strengthening party and enhancing its leading role is decisive guarantee for accomplishing the socialist cause". In his classical work "on the fundamental questions of revolutionary party building", the dear leader Comrade Kim

Chong-il said that the most important task facing the revolutionary parties and people today is to defend and develop the cause of socialism and to strengthen the party and enhance its leading role is a decisive guarantee for the accomplishment of the socialist cause, the author of the article says, and continues:

The ruling parties collapsed and socialism suffered a setback in some socialist countries because these parties failed to solidify themselves organisationally and ideologically and constantly enhance their leading role in keeping with the realistic requirement of the accomplishment of the socialist cause.

Practical experiences in the Korean revolution clearly prove that it is a decisive guarantee for the accomplishment of the cause of socialism to strengthen the party and increase its leading role.

Our party leadership was, above all, a decisive guarantee for strengthening the driving force of the socialist cause and enhancing its role.

Our party has thoroughly established chuche in ideology by arming party members and working people firmly with the chuche idea and the lines and policies of the party, its embodiment, and constantly consolidated the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses by firmly uniting the entire people around the party.

Our party's leadership is a basic condition for successfully pushing ahead with the cause of socialism on the basis of the correct fighting strategy and tactics.

Our party set forth the most correct and revolutionary lines and policies of socialist construction including the line of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, the general line of socialist construction, and has successfully led the socialist cause without the slightest deviation and vicissitude.

Our party leadership is also a basic guarantee for consistently adhering to and embodying the revolutionary principle in the whole course of accomplishing the socialist cause.

Our party has solved all the matters in socialist building on the principle of bringing the advantanges of socialism into play on the basis of collectivism.

Besides, our party is resolutely frustrating the anti-socialist mmves of the imperialists, while maintaining the revolutionary principle toward the imperialists and countering their ideological and cultural infiltration with a revolutionary ideological offensive.

Anniversary of Sudanese Independence Marked

SK3112101792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 31 Dec 92

["MINJU CHOSON Marks 37th Anniversary of Sudanese Independence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today dedicates a signed article to the 37th anniversary of the independence of Sudan.

After the independence, the Sudanese people have attained a remarkable success in the struggle to liquidate the aftermaths of the imperialist colonial rule, consolidate national independence and develop the national economy, the paper says, and continues: The Korean people sincerely rejoice over and hail the achievements made by the Sudanese people in their efforts for the independent development of the country and for the building of a new society.

The Korean and Sudanese peoples forged the bonds of friendship long ago and have since developed them favourably.

The Korean people will in the future, too, make every possible effort to strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with the Sudanese people in the idea of independence, peace and friendship. The Korean people wish the Sudanese people greater success in their struggle to build a new life.

Meeting Celebrates Sudan's Independence

SK3112103792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 31 (KCNA)—A meeting was held here Wednesday to mark the 37th anniversary of the independence of the Sudan.

It was attended by Paek Ni-sun, vice-president of the Korean Film Studio and vice-chairman of the Korea-Sudan Friendship Association, other officials concerned and working people in the city.

A speech was made and a message of greetings to 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for Sudanese National Salvation, adopted at the meeting.

South Korea

Two Chinese Fishing Boats Captured Near Cheju

SK0301105193 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Report from Korea Broadcasting System in Cheju Island]

[Text] Two Chinese fishing boats tresspassing in our territorial waters were captured by the Maritime Police. At this time, the Cheju Maritime Police is towing the two 72-ton boats to Cheju Port.

At around 1330 on 3 January, these two Chinese fishing boats came six miles inside our territorial waters 5 degrees south of Cheju Island. They were caught by our Maritime Police while catching fish with dragnets.

Envoy to PRC To Return for Consultations

SK0401095393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0903 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korean Ambassador to China No Chae-won will return home on Jan. 14 for consultations on issues of common concern between Seoul and Beijing, including a possible visit by Chinese President Yang Shangkun to Seoul, an informed source here said Monday.

No will also meet with officials of the presidential office and the Foreign Ministry to give them tips on promoting Seoul-Beijing ties and recent political developments in North Korea, the source said.

The South Korean Government was ready to accept Beijing's offer for Yang's Seoul trip at any time since President No Tae-u had invited him when he visited Beijing in September, he noted.

"However," the source said, "prospects for Yang to visit Seoul are not clear due to domestic reasons such as the National People's Congress slated in March and Yang's position in the Chinese leadership."

The source observed that yang's Seoul trip would come by March, or June at the latest, if Yang's position remained secure.

The source, who asked not to be named, said that Yang's trip, if realized, would possibly be followed by South Korean President-elect Kim Yong-sam's return call this year.

North Asks Chinese Loan To Import Crude Oil

SK0401100093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 4 Jan 93

[YONHAP report from Tokyo]

[Text] The Hong Kong English-language paper CHINA DAILY reported on 4 January that North Korea recently asked the Chinese for a loan to import crude oil. CHINA DAILY reported that North Korea's Kang Chong-mo, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee, visited China in late December 1992 and held talks with Li Lanqing, minister of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, and asked China to conclude an agreement for a loan.

North Seeks Companies' Aid To Buy Grain, Oil

SK0401004193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0020 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—North Korea, facing extreme food and energy shortages, has asked South Korean trading companies to help it purchase grains and crude oil, industry sources said Monday.

Pyongyang has asked Samsung Co., Daewoo Corp., Lucky-Gold Star International and Hyundai Corp., to supply grain and crude oil from third countries and told them it will pay in commodities such as zinc and raw iron and steel materials, the sources said.

As North Korea has virtually run out of foreign exchange, it could not buy grain directly from countries, including China, its closest ally, that demand settlement of their trade in cash.

The sources said that since early last year, North Korea has been trying to make deals through branch offices of the South Korean trading companies in Beijing and Hong Kong, but it stepped up its requests since November 1992.

North Korea sought to buy, among other things, Vietnamese rice, Chinese corn and American or Canadian wheat in the form of barter trade. North Korea did not ask to buy South Korean rice for reasons unknown, the sources said.

In principle, supplying grain to North Korea from third countries does not require South Korean government approval, but since rice and other grains are strategic materials, South Korean trading firms would not comply with North Korean requests unless they received the government's understanding, the sources said.

North Firm Breaks Contract, To Buy Taiwan Rice

SK0401005093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0040 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—North Korea may buy rice from Taiwan or Ukraine to make up for critical shortages, breaking a contract with a South Korean company, maritime sources said Monday.

Kumgangsan International Trading Co. of North Korea signed a contract with Cheonji Trading Co. of South Korea for the purchase of 100,000 tons of rice in 1991.

According to the sources, however, Pak Kyong-yun, head of Kumgangsan, recently said her firm might switch to Taiwan or some other country.

The reason for Pak's comment was not known, but it was probably due to the freeze in inter-Korean relations caused by the North's nuclear development project, the Seoul-Washington annual "Team Spirit" military exercise and a spy scandal, they said.

The North pushed for the rice deal with the South secretly to save face, and a blaze of publicity surrounding the first 5,000-ton shipment in July 1991 turned the North sour on the exchange. Since then, the contract has been on hold. Other sources said, however, that South Korea might resume rice shipments to the North as soon as the new administration is launched.

Seoul To Decide on Opening Rice Market

SK3112024092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Korea will have to make a "political decision" if all other countries opposing the opening of agricultural market including Japan yield to the pressure to open, Korean Ambassador to Geneva Pak Su-kil said yesterday.

He said there is a possibility that Korea may later remain the last country to oppose the agricultural market opening, although several countries are now taking similar positions.

Countries such as Switzerland, Canada, Israel and Mexico also oppose the Dunkel draft for nondiscriminatory tariffication and demand grave periods for agricultural products, he said.

Korea is closely cooperating with them to protect the rice market, he said.

"In the worst case, however, Japan may open its agricultural market and other countries reach compromise on the demand for a grace period. In that case, we will have to make a decision on whether to accept the result of the entire Uruguay Round multilateral trade talks," he said.

The top Korean negotiator in Geneva is visiting Seoul for consultations with government officials.

Pak said Seoul's strategy is to protect its agricultural market to the maximum while being flexible in other fields.

He expected the Uruguay Round trade talks to be concluded by the end of February 1993. But if the negotiations fail to be settled by then,, they may be delayed for a considerable time.

Pak said that different interest groups may put pressure on the U.S. government when Clinton takes office, which may result in a delay in the multilateral trade negotiations.

Kim Yong-sam, Clinton Aides To Meet 'Next Week'

SK0401123393 Seoul YONHAP in English 1221 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 4 (YONHAP)—Close aides to President-elect Kim Yong-sam and U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton are expected to have their first formal contact in the U.S. next week to discuss ways to further promote science and technical cooperation between their countries.

The occasion will be the first Korea-U.S. forum on science and technical cooperation opening in Washington D.C. on Jan. 12.

Kim Yong-sam's camp will be represented at the forum by Rep. So Sang-mok, chief of the first policy coordination office of the majority Democratic Liberal Party.

Those attending it from the side of the American President-elect will be Tom Schneider, advisor on science and technology, and Rep. George Brown Jr., chairman of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

The two sides are expected to reach an accord on the need to continue to promote technical exchanges and tie-up between the two countries under the upcoming new administrations if only to jointly explore new markets.

The forum is also likely to agree on the creation of a Korea-U.S. technology development foundation to expedite bilateral cooperative relations in the areas of economy and technology.

U.S. Businessman Said Mediator in New Talks

SK0301091693 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0800 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Chon Yo-ok from Tokyo]

[Text] Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN reported on 3 January that the chairman of a U.S. company with a branch office in Seoul is secretly acting as a go-between to bring about South-North summit talks.

Quoting a well-informed source on Korean peninsula affairs in Seoul, SANKEI SHIMBUN reported that Mr. Murphy, the chairman of (Nico) Company and a former official of the U.S. Defense Department, visited Seoul in October 1992 to get Kim Yong-sam's opinion, who at that time was the strongest candidate for the presidency, on the possibility of holding South-North summit talks with North Korean President Kim Il-song in March or April of 1993.

SANKEI SHIMBUN reported that Murphy proposed that if the place for the summit talks is not decided upon between Seoul and Pyongyang, it can take place in either New York or Washington.

It also reported that David Chang, an executive of (Nico) Company, was denying the report that Murphy was playing the role of mediator in South-North summit talks. In addition, the newspaper reported that nevertheless (Nico) Company is deeply involved with North Korea through trade, and that Murphy is showing a positive response on the possibility of President Kim Il-song visiting the United States.

Former East Bloc Nations Set Up Businesses

SK3012011092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0004 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—A total of 38 branch offices have been set up in South Korea by business enterprises of the Commonwealth of Independent States, former East Bloc countries and China, according to the Trade and Industry Ministry.

Ministry officials said Wednesday there were only two branch offices, both Polish, in 1988. The number had increased since as trade with former communist countries and China rose sharply in the four years.

By country, China led the list with 24, followed by the CIS with six, Yugoslavia, three, Poland, two, Hungary, two, and Bulgaria, one.

Most of these branches are engaged in trade and include five airline and shipping companies and one Russian cinema corporation, the officials said.

Trade With Communist Countries Up 30% Jan-Oct

SK3012122192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0725 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—Two-way trade with former and present communist countries soared 30.5 percent to 8,317 million U. S. dollars in January-October from a year earlier, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Wednesday.

Exports jumped 55.4 percent to 4,476 million dollars and imports rose 10 percent to 3,841 million dollars, a ministry spokesman said.

Korea posted a 635 million-dollar surplus in trade with communist nations in the first 10 months. This compares with a 590 million-dollar deficit last year.

Exports to China grew 83 percent to 3,478 million dollars and imports rose 11 percent to 3,140 million dollars for a two-way trade volume of 6,618 million dollars, taking the lion's share of the commodity exchange between Korea and communist nations.

Trade between Korea and Vietnam reached 391 million dollars in the 10 months, up 103.6 percent from a year earlier, posting the largest growth.

The trade with former Soviet republics climbed 5.3 percent to 854 million dollars, and trade with east European countries fell 34.8 percent to 446 million dollars.

Korea had surpluses of 338 million dollars with China, 295 million dollars with vietnam and 102 million dollars with east European nations, but a deficit of 106 million dollars with former Soviet republics.

Banks Allowed To Establish Foreign Branches

SK2912113292 Seoul YONHAP in English 1054 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—The Finance Ministry Tuesday decided to tentatively allow 17 domestic banks to set up 18 representative offices and branches abroad next year.

By area, the total breaks down to eight in China, seven in Southeast Asian countries, and one each in Mexico, Brazil and Japan.

A Finance Ministry official said Tuesday 18 banks had applied for the creation of 34 representative offices or branches abroad next year, but permission was granted on a selective basis in a policy to forestall excessive banking competition in some areas.

The 17 banks allowed to open overseas offices include 11 commercial banks and six special banks, and by type the 18 banking outlets set for creation comprise three branch offices, one local corporation and 14 representative offices.

As of last November, Korean banking institutions maintained 183 overseas outlets—113 by commercial banks, 60 by special banks, seven by local banks, and three by banking corps.

By area, the Asian zone topped the list with 73 followed by North America with 51, Europe with 48 and Latin America with three.

Companies Join Forces in Semiconductor Technology

SK3112025392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Dec 92 p 8

[By staff reporter Kim Su-yong]

[Text] Korean electronics giants are apparently wondering if they will be able to survive against the competition from its rivals with the technologies which they have developed on their own in this era of rapid scientific advances and the short-lived life cycles of technologies.

Against this backdrop, electronics juggernauts are increasingly adopting what they call strategic alliances in a bid to gain the upper hand in the international market.

Samsung Electronics Co., the nation's largest electronics maker, is joining hands with foreign rivals to overcome many problems facing the company, especially in the semiconductor manufacturing sector.

The company recently announced a deal with Dainippon Screen Co. of Japan to set up a joint-venture semiconductor manufacturing company in Korea. The agreement with the top producer of such semiconductor equipment as tracks and wet stations could be a great boon for Koran semiconductor manufacturers who almost exclusively depend on foreign-made components from Japan and the United States, company officials say.

Dainippon Screen became the third company with which Samsung Electronics has formed a strategic alliance for semiconductor manufacturing this month.

Samsung Electronics agreed to cooperate with Japanese semiconductor giant Tosshiba in the production of "flash" memory chips.

It also reached an agreement with U.S. semiconductor manufacturer Texas Instruments to co-produce DRAMs (dynamic random access memory) in Portugal.

Pacemakers of the new trend include such international electronics heavyweights as International Business Machines Corp. and Toshiba.

In an unlikely technology partnership, early this year IBM announced a deal with Toshiba and Siemens of Germany to cooperate in the development of 256-megabit DRAMs, the ultramodern computer memory.

Fujitsu of Japan has teamed up with AMD of the United States to conduct joint development of flash memory chips. AT&T and NEC also followed suit.

Industrial experts cite the reason for the strategic alliances between electronics giants as the unavailabity of massive financial support needed for the development of new products and the accompanying high risks.

"It may be too burdensome for any individual electronics maker to bear the huge amount of money required for the development of future sophisticated electronic items, so the strategy is aimed at reducing the underlying risks," says Choe Hoe-pom, deputy chief in charge of international affairs at the Korea Semiconductor Industry Association (KSIA).

"Another factor behind the technology partnerships is the desire to secure a larger share of the international market," he adds.

Kim Chong-hyon, a public relations official at Samsung Electronics, notes that IBM, Toshiba and Siemens agreed to set aside about $100 million for R&D for the development of the next-generation 256-megabit DRAM chips.

Samsung Electronics spent about 500 billion won to develop the 1-megabit DRAM chip and set up the assembly line for the chips, which constitutes the lion's share of its exports, along with the 4-megabit chip, the official says.

"Electronics giants tend to reach a strategic truce to share the international market among themselves without resorting to the potential risks of competing on their own," Kim opines.

It is noteworthy that Samsung Electronics has joined forces with Toshiba, the world's largest producer of conventional memory chips, to produce flash memory chips, Choe maintains. Samsung said it captured a 13 percent share in the market of 1-megabit and 4-megabit DRAM chips last year.

The technology partnership between Toshiba and Samsung is seen by industrial analysts as a move to unseat Intel Corp. of the United States, which accounts for an 80 percent share of the conventional flash memory chip market.

Samsung officials acknowledge that the two electronics markers want to advance the standardization of the "NAND"-type flash memory chips and take over a greater share in the global flash memory market in the future

The "NAND"-type flash memory chips which retains its data even when the power goes out, will likely be a hit product like the DRAM chips, which will enable such personal computer devices as the floppy disk drive to be smaller, say the Samsung officials, adding that the flash memory chip of Intel Corp. has a more limited function.

Samsung's decision to co-produce memory and nonmemory chips at the Portuguese plant of Texas Instruments is designed for Samsung to lay a foundation for manufacturing chips in Europe, which is set to forge its economic integration next year, they said.

A contract between Samsusng and Dainippon Screen Co. to set up a semiconductor manufacturing firm in Korea is significant in that Korean semiconductor manufacturers are too dependent on foreign imports, ranging from raw chip materials to chip manufacturing equipment, according to business observers.

The technology alliance is desirable for Korean semiconductor producers lacking related technologies, but the huge amount of royalties being paid in the course of introducing technologies should be given second thoughts, Choe cautioned.

In reality, Korea's three semiconductor markers—Samsung Electronics, Hyundai Electronics Industry Co. and Goldstar Electron Co.—have generally done a good job in producing conventional memory chips, which account for only 35 percent of the semiconductor market. But they are still far behind other international rivals in the production of high-value nonmemory chips such as application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), because of their lack of advanced technologies.

Reversal of 'Anti-Speculation Policy' Assailed

SK3012035092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Dec 92 p 9

[By staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] Backing away from its anti-speculation policy, the government has suddenly loosened its restrictions on land disposal by four conglomerates, including Lotte and Daewoo.

The decision will help these business groups reap capital gains and save on taxes.

Many critics contend that the latest government action has tarnished the morality of the No Tae-u administration and its much-touted slogan of pursuing a consistent policy.

The government announced Monday that it would permit the Lotte Group to sell 27,000 pyong of "idle land" near Chamsil Lotte World in Seoul to different buyers, not to a single one.

The action will enable the Lotte Group allegedly with close links to President-elect Kim Yong-sam to enjoy capital gains of 300-400 billion won. The land is priced at one trillion won.

If Lotte is forced to sell its land to a single buyer, it would fetch 500-600 billion won. Lotte's sale to different buyers will enable the group to sell it at or above market price.

The government had until last week resisted Lotte's repeated call for selling the land to multiple buyers, saying that it will aggravate traffic jams near the Chamsil area.

The government suddenly "revised" its tax codes last week to exempt the Daewoo Group from paying 100 billion won in tax on its "excessive" possession of idle land near the Daewoo shipyard.

Next year, Daewoo must pay 100 billion won in land holding tax unless it sells the land before this year.

Furthermore, the Trade-Industry Ministry permitted the Daewoo group to delay the merger of Daewoo Heavy Industries with Daewoo Shipyard by two years till 1994. The decision is regarded as a special privilege because Daewoo enjoyed tax exemptions and bail-out funds on condition that the two are merged in 1992.

The government is also moving to permit Ssangyong Motors and Hyundai Motor to convert their idle land into real estate linked to business operation. The permission will enable the two motor firms to save on taxes and reap capital gains.

On May 18, 1990, President No ordered 50 conglomerates to sell their "idle land"—equal to 10 percent of their total real estate holdings.

Although the instruction was controversial legally, it served to calm down the then rampant real estate speculation. Due to the instruction, such firms, including Lotte and Daewoo, had to face capital gains losses and pay huge amount of taxes.

But this time, the government selectively gave "special privileges" to the four firms.

The government is drawing suspicion not for its change of policy but because of its non-transparent decision-making process.

Last week, economic ministers made the decision in a closed-door session without the attendance of working-level officials from the Economic Planning Board and Finance Ministry. There was no official document on the decision and "we prepared a press release after hearing verbal instruction from our boss," said a government official.

Although the government has not made any official explanation behind the curious decision, many critics speculate whether the government's latest action is linked to "political funds for the presidential election."

Many critics contend that the government should clarify its controversial decision that has resulted in special privileges to the four conglomerates. They argue that President No and President-elect Kim Yong-sam should make public whether they are linked to the deal or not.

* Seriousness of Regionalism Discussed

* Theme Presented

932C0051A Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 18 Nov 92 p 6

[Theme by Tongguk University Professor Kim Ik-ki: "Causes of Regional Conflict and Its Solutions," presented at the roundtable discussion jointly sponsored by HANGUK ILBO and the Academy of Social Sciences]

[Text] The Korean society is on the threshold of an immense change. In a month we will see a real civilian government installed for the first time in so many years. The bright rays of civilian government will begin to shine at the end of the long tunnel of the military administration that has been in power over 30 years. Clearly, this is the great happy change that all of us have waited for so long. It is expected that this change will bring us a large gift bag of democratization that will make our people agitated with hope and expectation. But the current tension and conflict might continue unabated amid this change. In other words, the question of regional conflict, which is even called a ruinous disease of our nation, still remain unsolved.

A nationwide sample survey conducted in October 1988 jointly by the Academy of Social Sciences and HANGUK ILBO, indicated a serious degree of regionalism existing throughout the country. The measurement of the feeling of social distance between people in different regions indicated that the feeling of rejection between people in different regions manifested itself conspicuously in two forms.

First, the survey shows that the numerical value indicating the dislike for people in the Cholla Provinces prevalent among people in the rest of the country was very high. The intensity of dislike for people in the Cholla Provinces was generally high in all regions, and even higher particularly among people in North and South Kyongsang Provinces, North Chungchong Province, and Kangwon Province. What deserves particular attention here is the fact that even people in Kangwon Province, who have little opportunity to contract with people in the Cholla Provinces, showed a very high degree of dislike for people in Cholla Provinces. Second, only people in the Cholla Provinces showed a high degree of dislike for people in the Kyongsang provinces, while people in other regions entertained a relatively low degree of dislike for people in these provinces. In this connection it is noteworthy that when it comes to the mutual dislike among people in the Yongnam and Honam areas, people in the Yongnam area showed a much stronger dislike for people in the Honam area than people in the Honam area felt for people in the Yongnam area. The numerical value of dislike entertained by people in the Cholla Provinces for people in the Kyongsang Provinces was approximately 30 percent, whereas that the numerical value of dislike among people in the Kyongsang Provinces for people in the Cholla Provinces was 54 percent.

If so, can this regionalism be eliminated? The coming presidential election will be an important test of whether regionalism will be eliminated through a solemn effort of the presidential contenders or develop into a more serious, ruinous national disease. All the more so, given the signs that when it comes to down-to-earth campaigning, the presidential candidates of the various parties are appealing to regionalism behind their lofty banner calling for the elimination of regionalism, In this connection, I think it very important for us to discuss together the causes of regionalism and their solutions.

A complex mixture of political, social, and economic factors is responsible for the regionalism or regional conflict that is currently manifesting itself in our society. The mutual adversarial feeling between the people of the Yongnam and Honam areas has a long historical root. Some people say that this regionalism can be traced to the era of three Kingdoms, while others say that it originates in the "10 Commandments" of Wangkon, the founder of the Koryo dynasty. But no one doubts that it was during the turbulent period of the 1960's and the ensuring years that regionalism aggravated so much that the whole nation began to worry about it seriously. Politically, the 1960's was the period in which the Republican Party was in power with its regional base in the Yongnam area. Economically, that was the period in which the growth-oriented policy began to be applied discriminatingly in favor of the Yongnam area.

President Pak Chong-hui, after seizing power by the 1961 coup, conducted a personnel administration based on regional favoritism in an attempt to compensate for the lack of legitimacy for his government, thereby widening the regional gap and aggravating the regional conflict. The subsequent Chon Tu-hwan regime, which also lacked legitimacy, maintained an undemocratic and authoritative administration. The power of the TK [Taegu-Kyongbuk] establishment that emerged under the Chon Tu-hwan regime is still conducting personnel administration based on partiality, thus exhibiting its skewed nature. The Kwangju uprising may be recorded as an important incident that aggravated regionalism.

On the other hand, the biased economic development policy that was initiated with the Yongnam area as the center of industrialization became a decisive factor in widening the economic gap between the Yongnam and Honam areas. This not only widened the real income gap between the people of the Yongnam and Honam area but also caused a wide perception gap between the people in these two areas with regard to their income gap. This in turn prompted those in the Honam area who used to depend on farmland for their livelihood to abandon farming in droves.

Another cause of regionalism, which has further aggravated recently, is the political game played by some of the politicians on the strength of their regional ties, a game far short of a policy- or ideology-based rivalry. This tendency sharply manifested itself in the past presidential elections, reaching its height in the last presidential election.

Many-sided efforts are needed to overcome the regionalism currently prevalent in our society and achieve development through social unity. Inasmuch as regionalism is deep-rooted and it stems from diverse causes, its solutions cannot but be diverse. The issue can be approached roughly from two different angles. One is a general approach, namely, working out general and preventive measures through institutionalization. The other is symptomatic treatment for the various indirect and direct causes of the regional conflict. Here we will first deal with the symptomatic remedy for the known causes and then proceed to deal with institutional problems. With regard to the symptomatic treatment, it will be more meaningful to examine the remedies preferred by the public in the sample survey conducted in 1988. The solutions to regional conflict suggested in the 1988 survey divide the causes of various aspects of regional conflict into three categories—political, social, and economic. Those polled chose economic policies as ones that they think would make the greatest contribution to resolving the regional conflict. Among economic policies, the specific proposal for attracting big businesses to the Honam area was regarded as the most positive measure, with 73 percent of the respondents supporting the measure, and next came measures to remove the economic gap. The second important policies after economic policies for the elimination of the regional conflict were: democratization, regional distribution of personnel appointments, stepped up inter-regional exchanges, shift in generation in the political leadership, and expansion of transportation facilities connecting the eastern and western parts of the country. More than 50 percent of the respondents said these measures would be helpful in resolving the regional conflict. There was a marked difference between people in the Yongnam and Honam areas in the percentage of support for these measures, indicating that it is difficult to root out regionalism by symptomatic treatment alone.

On the other hand, the enactment of laws guaranteeing equality for all citizens and the practice of political democracy may be the universally applicable measures that can be worked out as part of the institutional approach. To institutionalize equality, it is imperative first to put in place the legal and institutional brakes that will make it fundamentally impossible to practice discrimination. One example may be the enactment of specific bills requiring regional quotas for employment, and the abolition of the common practice of giving one's permanent domicile in job application. Another possible measure is to make all citizens use standard Korean so that the prejudice derived from an external origin may be eliminated.

To this end, it is necessary for schools and mass media to do their utmost to conduct massive information campaigns and develop diverse programs designed to resolve the regional conflict.

The regional conflict cannot be removed completely by one or two remedies. Removal of the regional conflict requires the formulation of all integral policies. More important, however, is a strong determination to implement these policies. In this sense, the coming presidential election has a very important role to play. It must not become a political game appealing to regionalistic sentiment as in the past. The election must be a race conducted over policies developed to give hopes to all our citizens.

* Roundtable Discussion

932C0051B Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 18 Nov 92 pp 6-7

[Report by correspondents Yu Sung-u and Hong Yun-o on the roundtable discussion on "Causes of Regional Conflict and Their Solutions," sponsored jointly by the Academy of Social Sciences and HANGUK ILBO with partipants Kim Kyong-won, director of the Academy of Social Sciences; Kim Kyong-tong, Seoul National University professor; Yim Hui-sop, Koryo University professor; and Kim Ik-ki, Tongguk University professor; place and date not given]

[Text] [Kim Kyong-won] Before examining the causes of regional conflict and their solutions, the ultimate objective of today's discussion, I think we need to examine what kind of phenomenon that we call regional conflict is after all. Would Professor Kim Ik-ki, who has presented the theme, please explain the concept of regional conflict?

[Kim Ik-ki] In fact, I could not make up my mind in the beginning whether I should use the words "regional conflict" or the more commonly used expression "regionalistic sentiment" as the tile of our theme. It seems to be more accurate to state that regionalism as existing in our country had been hidden in the form of a submerged "feeling" up until 1987. But with the 1987 presidential election as a momentum regionalism erupted in the form of regional "conflict" in which as the press reported in those days, people from one region were beaten in groups in another region. The regionalistic sentiment which used to be felt only superficially precipitated into a serious problem of regional conflict. This made it necessary to deal with the issue in a systematic manner. That is why I chose the words regional conflict as our theme. There is the difference that while feeling is something that resides in us as a mere consciousness, conflict takes the form of concrete action.

[Kim Kyong-won] Feeling is of a passing and impulsive nature, and in a pure sense regionalistic sentiment can be viewed positively as one's attachment to his native place. Accordingly, it is more appropriate to say that what we are making an issue of is regional conflict.

Well, conflict exists in any society in a complex form, such as conflict between different classes, different generations, different races, and so forth. What is the reason that regional conflict among all these forms of conflict poses as a special problem for us? It seems to me that the word "prejudice" sounds more appropriate than conflict.

[Yim Hui-sop] The phenomenon we are dealing with here may be classified roughly into four categories: regionalistic consciousness, preference based on regional ties, regional prejudice, and the feeling of being a victim of regional persecution. Emphasis on regionalistic consciousness is something positive like love for one's native place. On the other hand, when it goes wrong, it would come to place emphasis on regional ties, manifesting itself in a negative form, such as giving primary attention to the interests of one's locality where a universal standard should be applied. Next comes regional prejudice that often becomes fixed in one's mind. When prejudice is once formed as a result of preference based on regional ties, it would hardly change. Last comes the consciousness of being a victim of persecution. In the 1980's people in some areas came to have this consciousness of being discriminated against. These four forms of consciousness are interwoven, but we need to discuss them separately for the sake of clarity.

[Kim Kyong-tong] The classification you made sounds good. Difference can always arise between regions because of cultural, ecological, and industrial reasons. We may call them local color. When a group makes egoistic use of regional differences like local color, there will arise a gap, which will breed discrimination, prejudice, and the consciousness of being a victim of persecution. But I do not think that prejudice will become a serious issue because ours is the nation of a single race.

[Kim Kyong-won] When viewed from the standpoint of a political scientist, there is nothing wrong with collective egoism. Democratic political process may be viewed as a competition among interest groups. The problem is how fairly this competition is carried out. However, I suspect that discrimination is being actually practiced between specific regions and that underlying this discriminatory behavior is the prejudicial attitude of our citizens.

[Yim Hui-sop] Let me consider the question: Which comes first, discriminatory behavior or prejudice? In bygone days local color did not manifest itself in the form of serious discrimination. Prejudice, touched off by a political conflict, gave rise to discriminatory behavior, which in turn bred a more serious prejudice in a vicious cycle. [Kim Kyong-tong] I agree. "Taek-ri-ji," a book of geography compiled by Yi Chung-hwan under the Yi dynasty, describes the attitude of the people of the Yongnam area toward the people of the Honam area and the attitude of the people of the northeastern region toward those in the southwestern region. The book thus illustrates cultural prejudice existing in those days. We have to recognize this fact before proceeding further. However, we can find no link that shows that such prejudice developed into the kind of regional conflict that all of us takes seriously today. Accordingly, we should not view regional conflict as an aspect of cultural prejudice endemic to our nation but as a new form of prejudice derived from political conflict.

[Kim Kyong-won] This paves the way for us to enter into the discussion of the causes of regional conflict. In your opinion, does the regional conflict that has become a current issue originate in politics?

[Kim Kyong-tong] That is the conclusion drawn from analyses by many experts and actual surveys. We cannot single out a specific politician who is responsible for the phenomenon, but I think the regional conflict generated by political problems surfaced following the establishment of the Republican Party government.

[Kim Ik-ki] Many trace regional conflict back to the era of three Kingdoms or to the reign of Wangkon, the founder of the Koryo dynasty. But survey shows that the regional conflict became serious in the 1960's following the establishment of the Republican Party government. On the political plain, the regime that lacked legitimacy attempted to maintain its power by hiring only those in the inner circle after its inauguration, and this must have bred many problems. Economically, a gap appeared between the Yongnam and Honam areas as investment was concentrated in the Yongnam area for industrialization, leaving the Honam area in the state of an agricultural society.

[Kim Kyong-won] You said that the regime hired only people from the area its ruler came from because it lacked legitimacy. Your analysis seems arbitrary, or so it seems. Isn't it more reasonable to assume that greater the extent of the illegitimacy, the harder the regime must have tried to hire its personnel from wider areas?

[Kim Ik-ki] What I meant to say is that because the regime lacked legitimacy, it could not trust others and had no choice but to hire only close associates. For example, don't you agree that at the terminal days of the Pak Chong-hui regime, it tried hard to hire only those in close circles?

[Kim Kyong-won] That tendency should be regarded as a natural phenomenon in the relationship in politics and government as illustrated by the Georgia Mafia under the Carter administration, the story of the subsequent Reagan Mafia, and the attention pivoted on Clinton intimates following his election to the presidency. I cannot find a direct link between the issue of the legitimacy of government and the issue of regionalism.

[Kim Ik-ki] Economically, development projects were concentrated in Ulsan and other localities in the Yongnam area following the debut of the Pak Chong-hui regime, and the regional gap between the rich and poor areas became wider, a phenomenon unprecedented. In addition, the perception of the gap and the prejudice of people in one area against those in another area came to assume a new characteristic. For example, an extremely negative perception of the people of the Honam area became fixed. The ratio between the population of the Yongnam and Honam areas had remained steady until the early part of the 1960's. But when the economic development policy was undertaken, there began a mass exodus of farmers from the Honam area. Most of those who left their native places in the Honam area were poor, and this fanned the discriminatory feeling against them. The fundamental prejudice caused a gap, which in turn sharpened the prejudice.

[Yim Hui-sop] It is important to note that the Honam area was an agricultural society, but it is difficult to conclude that the economic development policy for industrialization was deliberately concentrated in the Yongnam area. There were big landowners and many tenant farmers in the Honam area because it has a vast expanse of farmland. The sense of class consciousness and social alienation between landowners and tenant farmers was relatively sharper in the Honam area than in the Yongnam area.

In addition, those in power must have tried to maintain the Honam area as an agricultural zone as much as possible because it was a granary.

Anyhow as the economic development policy progressed, the gap between industry and agriculture widened. In my view, this was not the result of any deliberate intention from the beginning. I would say that industrial complexes were concentrated in the Yongnam area as efforts were made to preserve the plains as an agricultural zone and build industrial estates in narrow level land in mountainous areas.

[Kim Kyong-won] The civil war in America may be cited as a graphic example showing how serious a regional conflict stemming from economic causes could become. The conflict between the industrialized North and the agricultural community in the South developed into a horrible civil war, entangled with complex racial problems. But there is no prejudice against the fact that the young governor of Arkansas, one of the most backwoods states in the United States, has been elected to the U.S. Presidency. An analysis of this difference leads us to conclude that the unfair political competition in our country has acted as a catalyst for aggravating regionalism.

[Kim Kyong-tong] When one tries to make a rational choice for the purpose of industrial development, one should take into consideration all conditions, such as the infrastructure of the area concerned and its local characteristics, in an objective manner. In this sense, we may assume that in the judgment of the policy planners in those days, the southeastern region had a more favorable condition for industrial location than the southwestern region. Regional political ties are somewhat stronger culturally in our country than elsewhere, but such ties can be found in any society. The problem is that a gap was generated as a result of these ties. Instead of making an effort to remove the gap, some political groups rather tried to take advantage of it, thereby aggravating the conflict.

[Kim Kyong-won] You stated that some political groups tried to take advantage of the economic conflict. But in my opinion, where there is a conflict, it is a legitimate function of politicians to take advantage of that conflict; and this is rather a normal phase of the political process. Let us examine the reason why the regional conflict has aggravated in our country. There was no room for class conflict under the peculiar situation of national division, and this made regional conflict operate as a "substitute conflict" for other forms of conflict. In this process, the regional conflict became further aggravated. This is to say that because there was no class conflict or a conflict between the conservatives and progressives as is common in other countries, it is possible that regional conflict has functioned as a substitute for these other forms of conflict. Practically, politics in our country has been conservative in the whole because the given condition in our country was not conducive to progressive politics. I hope you agree.

[Yim Hui-sop] The military regime which may be viewed as having lasted from the 16 May military coup through the Sixth Republic may be regarded as the regime of the Kyongsang Provinces as well as a military regime. As that regime lasted for over 30 years under these circumstances, our society became entrenched naturally with inequality, coupled with preference based on regional ties, in every aspect such as personnel administration and economic development. The gap thus created showed its cumulative effects with the passage of time, culminating in an acute issue of regional conflict as we see it today.

Therefore in my opinion, the gap did not necessarily stem from deliberate discrimination. As the regime lacking legitimacy has lasted over 30 years under the circumstances in which the natural gap described above widened, the natural gap that grew insidiously has now developed into an arbitrary sense of discrimination. This sense become particularly conspicuous in the Honam area. The people in the Honam area justify their sense of discrimination because the regime that has lasted since the Third Republic is responsible for the gap. So-called class conflict, in the final analysis, is the outcome of such gap and not the cause of regional conflict. Take the Kwangju uprising for instance, it started purely as a democratic movement, but it gradually transformed into a class movement, and eventually into a regional conflict.

[Kim Kyong-won] We may say that conflict is everywhere. But in our country, class conflict did not surface because of the peculiar situation of national division. In other words, I think that things such as the camaraderie among the alumni and regional competition surfaced as a substitute conflict, which has deteriorated into a regional conflict.

Viewed from another angle, suppose we have achieved national reunification, the people in the North would remain poorer than their fellow countrymen in the South for a considerable length of time, and this would give rise to a regional conflict between North and South, a conflict on a different plain. Therefore, we need to make preparations and work our countermeasures in anticipation of this development.

Germany has been unified politically, but spiritual reunification is yet to be achieved. In reality, people in East Germany have a considerably strong sense of deprivation or the sense of being a victim of persecution.

Because our society is in a special situation as a divided country, regional conflict has surfaced as a substitute conflict for other forms of conflict. Anyhow every society has its own conflict.

[Kim Ik-ki] Your analysis seems to represent the viewpoint of conflict-based determinism. Do you think there was in reality a conflict similar to our regional conflict in Germany before its unification?

[Kim Kyong-won] There was a regional conflict of their own. In every society conflict exists, beginning with human feelings and including conflict between political parties.

At any rate I don't think we can find a conclusion to this argument so easily. So, believing that our argument has brought the issue into focus, I would like you gentlemen to express your views on methods for resolving the regional conflict.

[Kim Ik-ki] To begin with, we may mention roughly two ways of resolving regional conflict, namely, a symptomatic approach and a statutory and institutional preventive approach.

First, if there are complaints about the economic gap between different regions, particularly between the Yongnam and Honam areas and the unfairness in personnel administration particularly in favor of the Yongnam area—the factors responsible for the malady.

then these causes must be removed in a rational manner. That is what I call a symptomatic remedy. To be more specific, this remedy includes: elimination of the economic gap by, for instance, attracting big businesses to the Honam area; wide-ranging democratization; fairness in personnel appointments; increased inter-regional exchanges; and shift in generation in the political leadership.

However, survey shows that the state of regional conflict has so aggravated that it may now be called a ruinous national disease. Thus it has become impossible to resolve the heart of the problem by this kind of symptomatic remedy alone.

Therefore the symptomatic remedy must necessarily be accompanied by statutory and institutional measures as a more fundamental and preventive approach. To this end, we need the legal and institutional brakes that will render discrimination fundamentally impossible—measures such as: the enactment of legislation specifically requiring the adoption of regional quotas for employment and the abolition of the space for one's permanent domicile in the job application form; and measures to encourage people to use standard Korean.

[Kim Kyong-won] You say the state of regional conflict is so serious, but what is the standard of measurement you used in your judgement? Do you say that in comparison with other countries?

[Kim Ik-ki] The seriousness is corroborated by the fact that the degree of dislike for people in a specific region (Honam) entertained by people in other areas is high despite that we are a homogeneous people. To be more specific, the overriding fact that affected the outcome of the last presidential election in 1987 was regionalism, and this fact alone points to the seriousness I mentioned.

[Yim Hui-sop] There is some truth in what both of you say. But I like to focus our argument back on ways of resolving regional conflict.

I just proposed to return to the discussion of solutions, but no concrete suggestion comes to my mind for the moment.

It is important to work out various artificial institutional devices designed to eliminate the sense of discrimination over the regional economic gap, for instance. But fundamentally, I belive that unexpectedly the issue can be solved easily if only the standard of universality and the rule of fairness are observed in all national policies. Fairness and justness are the most important key to resolving class conflict also.

True it is important to take artificial measures such as purposefully concentrating development projects in a particular region, the Honam area for instance, and working out a statutory device for insuring fairness in employment. But basically, I would say that we can be optimistic about resolving regional conflict if all the three standards—universality, fairness, and justice—are thoroughly observed in the process of implementing state policies.

[Kim Kyong-won] While agreeing to Professor Yim's optimistic view for now, I would like to point out another worrisome factor, namely, the fact that the unwanted regionalism that has been formed in the past persists consciously or subconsciously at the bottom of our minds so that it is not likely to go away easily in a short period of time, even if we make concentrated efforts.

Inasmuch as we feel acutely about the damage done by our deep-rooted regionalism, each citizen, let alone political leaders, should work hard to eliminate regionalism without overlooking the fact that the process of resolving will take a long time. On the other hand, even if regionalism is gradually resolved, there is the high possibility that the sediment of regionalism will lurk in the corner of our minds for a long period of time. Therefore sustained attention should be paid to eliminating even this residual feeling on a long-range basis.

Yet it worries me that some political groups are suspected of trying to continually fan regionalism so that they may take advantage of it as before, looking away from this basic common sense.

To understand this apprehension, it suffices to look at the behavior of various parties under the current three-party system.

I would say that one of the important factors in eliminating the regional conflict is, as pointed out earlier by other professors, the determination to practice the basic democratic principles, such as the observance of the rules of fairness and justice in the process of policy determination. In this connection, I like to make one more point before proceeding further, the point that the process of democratization may contrarily give rise to the phenomenon in which various aspects of the regionalistic sentiment, such as preference based on regional ties, that have been constrained below the surface thus far under the authoritarian rule, are freely manifested.

[Kim Ik-ki] That is right. It is absolutely essential to bring the submerged regionalism to the surface and eliminate it. There have been various efforts by numerous organizations, such as "The National Council for the Elimination of Regionalism," aimed at combating regionalism. But it is too early to be optimistic even though these efforts appear to be positive. Regional conflict became acuter at each election time.

[Kim Kyong-won] I just hit upon one method of resolution in my mind. I suggest that no one vote for a politician who is trying to take advantage of regionalism.

[Kim Kyong-tong] In connection with the observance of universality, justice, and fairness in the process of policy formulation, we need to emphasize the importance of the democratic consciousness of each citizen.

For this reason, the coming presidential election must be a truly democratic election which will overcome the problems of regionalism. In other words, the voters should not be bound by their regional ties but cast their votes on the basis of the programs of political parties or the personal qualities of the candidates, thoroughly rejecting money- or power-based electioneering. Another key to eliminating regional conflict is for each individual, as well as each political organization, to strictly observe the rules so that no one will complain.

[Yim Hui-sop] Inasmuch as the conventional regionalism will not disappear overnight, we can hardly say that the coming presidential election will decide the issue of regionalism once and for all.

Looking ahead toward the 21st century, we foresee a shift in generation in the political leadership and a more hopeful state of democracy than now in every aspect of social life. I believe that in the 21 century when we have to play our role in the world stage, we will no longer have the anachronistic situation in which our people used to be obsessed with their regional interests and wrangle with each other over these interests.

[Kim Kyong-won] I agree. At a time when we will have to greet national reunification within the community of nations, we should not fail to transcend and do away with regionalism, an evil practice ruinous to the survival of our nation. In conclusion, let me say that this has something to do even with the good sense, personality, and morality of each individual.

* Shock Wave of Secret Officer Group 'Aljahoe'

* Similarity to 'Hanahoe'

932C0052A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 15 Nov 92 p 18

[Article by correspondent Pang Chun-sik: "Stir Over 'Aljahoe'"]

[Text] The exposure of Aljahoe was shocking because Aljahoe started as a private organization of junior Army officers inside the military where obeying orders from the top and loyalty to organization are of vital importance.

The military authorities have not gone beyond reassigning those involved to other positions in taking disciplinary action, on the grounds that "Aljahoe was dissolved in 1986 to all intents and purposes and there has been no particular move since then."

However, the alumni association of the 38th Korea Military Academy [KMA] class expelled the Aljahoe members by a "trial by default," so to speak. There is also a strong voice demanding their discharge from service.

Key members of Aljahoe became the target of criticism by their classmates who are not affiliated with Aljahoe because they were ensconced in special positions in Army units in the capital city and exchanged their posts among themselves.

Although aware of this criticism, the military hierarchy seems to be perplexed by the "unexpectedly" tough reaction of non-Aljahoe officers.

Alumni of the 30th and subsequent KMA classes (with the rank of lieutenant colonel with seniority or full colonel) and other field officers (from ROTC, Category A, and the early three-year Military Academy) pointed out: "The military leaders overlook the fact that some Aljahoe members were overbearing in their attitude toward non-Aljahoe officers."

By way of illustration these critics cited the fact that a certain Aljahoe member unscrupulously said to one of his non-Aljahoe classmate, "you are nothing but the bubble (when compared with the cream." The occasion was an evening gathering of members of the 38th KMA class which was held in July at the War College while they were in training courses there.

When Aljahoe was inaugurated, its charter members limited its membership to 12, modeling after the 12 Apostles, as if they were "the Apostles of the Gospels." It is the consensus of non-Aljahoe officers that this fact, despite its comicality, gives a glimpse of the ulterior motive of the organizers.

Members of the KMA 38th class, who take the toughest stance on the issue of meting out punishment to Aljahoe, reportedly expressed misgivings as well as a sense of dissatisfaction about the fact that the system of "Yusin Grade-5 posts" was abolished when they graduated. A concerned Army officer said that all KMA graduates of the 30th class and above were assured of their promotion up to the rank of full colonel in the absence of any fault, so they vied with one another to get promoted to the rank of general officer. But now members of the subsequent classes have to compete fiercely with their classmates for the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Non-KMA officers look upon the Aljahoe scandal with the apprehension that now that even KMA graduates have to compete for promotion to the field officer grades, there is little room for them to get a promotion.

In addition, officers of non-KMA origin look upon Aljahoe with a strong sense of suspicion because its methods of initiation and organizing are so similar to those of Hanahoe. The two organizations have these similarities: 1) both are secret organizations in which each class comprises a separate group; 2) relatively. members are elite officers who exhibited their leadership quality as senior 'hwarang' in their KMA days; 3) members rotated key positions in the Army among themselves. Another similarity is that although the two organizations were officially dissolved, they still maintain their undying vitality with their members "leading and supporting" one another behind the scenes. The military authorities claim that Hanahoe was disbanded in connection with of the Yun Pil-yong incident in 1973. But its vitality continued through the Fifth and Sixth Republic.

Officers who claim that Hanahoe still exists cite as proof the fact that President Chon Tu-hwan ordered the dissolution of Hanahoe through the office of the Chongwadae security force, and subsequently President No Tae-u has issued similar orders on three occasions during his tenure.

Yet the Army hierarchy is taking an easy-going attitude saying that there is no trouble because Aljahoe has nothing to do with Hanahoe and its members are young officers of the ranks of lieutenant colonel and below.

A certain officer said, "the judgement of the leadership overlooks the possibility that when Aljahoe members rise to higher ranks in the future, they will use their organization for 'ulterior' purposes."

It is possible that a private organization in the military, even if it is organized for a good cause, by nature will derange the official command structure of the military and change its color at any time. [Box, p 18] Key Figures with the Hanahoe background: KMA Names, 11th class: Former President Chon Tu-hwan; President No Tae-u; Independent Assemblyman Chong Ho-yong; Choe Song-taek, former president of the Petroleum Development Corporation; DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] Assemblymen Kwon Ik-hyon and Kim Pok-tong; An Kyo-tok, senior presidential secretary for civil affairs.

12th class: DLP Assemblymen Pak Se-chik and Chong Tong-ho; An Pil-chun, minister of health & social affairs; Pak Hi-to, former Army chief of staff.

13th class: DLP Assemblymen Sin Chae-ki, Chong Tong-ho, and Yun Tae-kyun; O Han-ku, former DLP assemblyman; Yi U-chae, former minister of telecommunications; Defense Minister Choe Se-chang; U Kyong-yun, former president of Tokpyong Country Club.

14th class: Pak Chong-ki, chairman of Handok Insurance Company; former Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku; DLP Assemblymen Pae Myong-kuk, An Mu-hyok, and Yi Chun-ku. 15th class: Yi Chin-sam, minister of sports and juvenile affairs; Min Pyong-ton, former KMA superintendent; Na Chung-pae, ambassador to Saudi Arabia; former Justice Minister Yi Tae-hui; DLP Assemblyman Kim Sang-ku; and Ko Myong-sung, former commander of the Army Security Command. 16th class: Chang Se-tong, former director of the Agency for National Security Planning; Choe Pyong-uk, director of national railroads; DLP Assemblyman Chong Sun-tok; Song Yong-sop, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Sin Mal-yop, former Army commander.

* Characteristics, Activities

932C0052B Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 15 Nov 92 p 3

[Article by correspondent Kim Song-su: "Attention Is Focussed on the Character of 'Aljahoe,' a Private Organization Inside the Military"]

[Text] The exposure on 13 December of the secret activities of Aljahoe, a private organization in the military composed of field and company officers among KMA [Korea Military Academy] graduates, has aroused concerns about the character of that organization and its relationship, if any, with Hanahoe, which wielded its power inside and outside the military under the Fifth Republic.

Most of non-Aljahoe officers among the KMA graduates who are antagonistic to Aljahoe are angry, and attention is now focused on how these officers would react to the measures being taken by the military authorities to settle the Aljahoe case. The authorities have ordered the dissolution of Aljahoe and taken steps to put Aljahoe members in a disadvantageous position in personnel administration.

Explaining the genesis of Aljahoe, concerned officials in the Army and the Army Security Command [ASC], said that some cadets of the 34th KMA class, feeling that "they had classmates but no friends in whom they could confide," organized Aljahoe in 1976 when they were in the KMA junior year.

Modeling after the "Twelve Apostles," the membership was limited to 12, and in May 1977, the following year, the 12 went hiking to Mt. Soyosan, where they named their organization "Aljahoe" and pledged to help each other when they became commissioned officers.

Upon commissioning, these cadets made a selected members of the 35th class, their juniors, organize a similar group among themselves, to whom they bequeathed the name of Aljahoe in an initiation ceremony. Aljahoe continued through the 43d class by the same method.

It was during the process through which members of the 42d class were handing over the private organization to members of the 43d class in 1986 that its existence was uncovered by the Army Security Command [ASC].

Thereupon the ASC issued a verbal order to dissolve Aljahoe and had some of its members sign a pledge. According to concerned ASC officials, since then the ASC has kept an eye on Aljahoe members but no particular activities were detected; therefore the ASC concludes that to all intents and purposes, Aljahoe was on the road to its demise beginning at that time.

Contrary to the ASC explanation, however, some observers in and out of the military think that Aljahoe members stepped up their activities beginning in 1983 and later the brakes were applied while Aljahoe was in the process of transformation from an organization of "friendship and mutual assistance" into an "interest group."

According to these observers, Aljahoe members were on their good behavior for a while after their organization was detected by the ASC, but they soon resumed their activities as an "interest group." The same observers cite the following facts as proof of their claim: that during a training course at the War College in Chinhae last July, an Aljahoe member said to his non-Aljahoe colleague, "you guys are noting but the bubbles"; and that despite the difficulty of a collective action within the military, members of the 38th KMA class resolved to expel Aljahoe members from the alumni roster the class, claiming, "Aljahoe members have received preferential treatment in promotion and placement."

The Army authorities refute this claim in these words: "Because Aljahoe was organized with relatively outstanding KMA cadets at the center, there are about 20 of them hold positions commonly known as the cream of employment, such as in the Army Headquarters Office of Personnel Management, the Presidential Security Force, the Capital Defense Corps, and the War College faculty. There were about five to six cases of job rotation among some Aljahoe members."

Aljahoe members and the military authorities claim that Aljahoe is merely a "friendship gathering." But Aljahoe has these characteristics: 1) the number of membership is fixed at 12 for each class and the group of one class is vertically linked to the group of the next class under the same name; 2) Aljahoe has no bylaws, holds no regular meetings, and has no representative; and never have all its members gathered together. With these characteristics, Aljahoe is very similar to "Hanahoe," which was a subject of heated controversy as a secret organization within the military under the Third through Fifth Republics. This similarity fuel suspicion that Aljahoe must have some link to Hanahoe.

Some military authorities deny this suspected linkage and view Aljahoe as an epigone of Hanahoe. According to them, Hanahoe actually came to an end with the 22d and 23d KMA classes, and Aljahoe was organized after the pattern of Hanahoe. To prove their point, these authorities point out that there are no guardians for Aljahoe and the organization of Aljahoe is too loose compared with Hanahoe.

On the contrary, some observers look upon Aljahoe as Hanahoe's successor. They claim that Hanahoe, although it was supposed to have dissolved on the surface, in substance its links still survive. As proof of their argument, they point out that there is not a single one hailing from the Honam area among Aljahoe members in the case of the 38th and 39th classes, and that officers hailing from South and North Kyongsang Provinces and Taegu form a majority of the Aljahoe membership in each class. They claim that Hanahoe changed its name and controlled its members under a new name when it became a target of criticism.

Action taken by the Army leadership to quell the stir over Aljahoe has been virtually completed. All that they did was they decided to transfer 20 Aljahoe members in key positions to other positions in two steps: in the first step those officers who have held their current positions over one year will be transferred forthwith; and in the second step the remainder who have held their positions for less than one year will be transferred as soon as they have served for a full one year.

In connection with the stir over the Aljahoe case, Choe Sung-u, Army deputy chief of staff for personnel affairs, called in 150 non-Aljahoe members of the 34th through 43d KMA classes, 15 officers from each class, to hear their views on the case. After his meeting with them, Choe said: "some non-Aljahoe officers, agitated by their belated knowledge of the existence of Aljahoe, are demanding the discharge of Aljahoe members from active duty. But their wholesale discharge would not only shake the infrastructure of the military but also arouse animosities between Aljahoe members and those who attacked Aljahoe. Therefore, too stern a measure like their mass discharge from service is not in order."

Choe Sung-u disclosed that the military will wind up the case by meting out a reasonable disciplinary action to those 20 officers in key positions so that they may be put in a disadvantageous position in personnel affairs.

In response, an officer who is a KMA graduate and non-Aljahoe member said, "many non-Aljahoe officers feel righteous indignation at the erratic behavior of a handful of elitists," adding that "I am disappointed by the attitude of the military leadership who called in the class leaders and influential officers among members of each class in order to coax them into swallowing a temporizing settlement." He further said, "I doubt that the current stir will subside and unity will be achieved among the military personnel as hoped by the military leadership who try to settle the Aljahoe case by merely transferring some of its members."

It is suggestive that some reserve officers made this observation: "Hanahoe rather closed its ranks after it was hit hard because of the so-called Yun Pil-yong case in 1973. This historical experience makes us apprehensive that Aljahoe, too, might tighten its loose organization while its members are experiencing an ordeal."

* Prudence Urged

932C0052C Seoul TONGA ILBO in Korean 17 Nov 92 p 23

[Text] Amid the persistent demand by members of each KMA [Korea Military Academy] graduating class for punishment of Aljahoe members, a high-ranking authority in the Army Headquarters stated on 17 November that the adoption by the alumni association of a certain KMA class of a resolution and demand on a specific issue by going beyond the purpose of friendship falls under the category of action taken by a private organization in the military. Attention is now directed at what action the military will take in response to such demand.

The same authority made this point: "The alumni association of each KMA class is scheduled to have a year-end meeting, and some officials are apprehensive that this might add fuel to the stir over the Aljahoe case. But we have no intention of banning or controlling these gatherings and will leave them to the discretion of those involved. However, if they adopt resolutions or demands in these meetings, that will constitute an act of a private organization."

The same authority said that at the beginning, the Army high command decided not to make an issue when KMA graduates hold separate meetings by each class to discuss the Aljahoe case, even if they criticize the stand of the high command. But, he added, Army staff officers are of the opinion that adopting a resolution or demand in the name of each graduating class can be construed as a group action was aired among the. However, the same authority disclosed that the high command will finalize its overall stand on the Aljahoe case, including the nature of the directive to be issued by Army Chief of Staff Kim Chin-yong, pending the subsiding of the stir over the Aljahoe case and the completion of the investigation into the scandal involving the Pusan Logistic Command. He added that as of now the executive officers of the Army Headquarters are screening candidates for promotion, shutting off all contacts with the outside. They are not having any particular meeting to discuss the Aljahoe case.

Meanwhile, in connection with the remarks made by Assemblyman Kang Chang-song (Democrat) in the National Assembly to the effect that there is another private organization called "Mannahoe" in the military, the Army Headquarters held a meeting on 16 November at which it was reaffirmed that: "Since Army Chief of Staff Directive 1 was issued on 1 February, the Army has endeavored to ascertain whether or not private organizations exist within the military. In this process, however, no organization by the name of Mannahoe has been found."

The Army Headquarters said: "The directive calls for the dissolution of private organizations and declares that no individual should suffer disadvantage because he joined a private organization in the past."

The demand by non-Aljahoe officers for a strong punitive action includes: discharge of Aljahoe members from service; their dismissal from their current positions; and their exclusion from influential posts in the future.

Before the end of the year, meetings of KMA alumni classes are scheduled for each Sunday—the 41st class on the 11 November and the 42d class on 29 November at the KMA. The 39th class had a reunion on 10 November, before the Aljahoe case surfaced. Reportedly, executive members of the 39th class are making the rounds of those stationed in frontline areas who were unable to attend the reunion, soliciting their opinions as to whether Aljahoe members should be expelled from the class alumni association.

* 'Aljahoe' Members Expelled

932C0052D Seoul TONGA ILBO in Korean 16 Nov 92 p 23

[Text] Last Sunday, 15 November, 160 members (majors, commissioned in 1981) of the KMA [Korea Military Academy] 37th class and 180 members (captains, commissioned in 1984) of the 40th class hurriedly converged on Seoul from their posts scattered throughout the country to hold separate meetings at the KMA to discuss the Aljahoe case. In this way the stir over the Aljahoe case is spreading more and more.

Members of the 37th class had a full-dress debate on the issue in the Hungmu Hall of the KMA from 1000 till 1700, at which they decided not to expel the 12 classmates belonging to Aljahoe but to watch what action the Army high command would take. On the contrary, at a simultaneous meeting held in the Army seminar hall, the 40th class decided to strike out all of the 12 Aljahoe members from the roster, criticizing the temporizing measures taken by the Army high command against the Aljahoe case.

Commenting on the decision of the 40th class, an Army authority said: "Young officers criticized the stand of the Army high command during an alumni meeting of their class. What transpired in the process of internal debate was not out of the ordinary, and the Army does not take it as a case of disobedience." He added, "there is no change in our stand that the Aljahoe case should be dealt with under a long-range educational and organizational approach, by transferring Aljahoe members to other posts and executing special personnel supervision, and so forth." Of the total 120 Aljahoe members from the 34th through 43d class, 20 (lieutenant colonels, majors, and captains) have been known to hold important positions in military establishments in the capital zone; and the Army has already transferred eight of them who served more than one year in their positions to frontline units in accordance with the aforementioned stand. Army authorities said that the remaining 12 will be transferred to other positions next year.

At the 15 November meeting, members of the 37th class adopted the majority opinion that "although Aljahoe members have impaired the prestige of the Military Academy and undermined the unity of the military by forming a private organization, we should support the plan of the Army high command to solve this issue." The opinion says, "expulsion of Aljahoe members from the association of classmates is in itself undesirable from the point of view of the unity of the military."

On the contrary, members of the 40th class said, "the Army high command's settlement plan cannot be viewed as an appropriate action against those officers who formed a private organization." "Transfer to frontline units," they added, "is a routine personnel action normally experienced by almost everyone in military life; therefore the transfer of eight Aljahoe members to frontline positions does not mean much in terms of disciplinary action."

With the names of all the 120 Aljahoe members written down on the blackboard, members of the 40th class discussed the Aljahoe issue and resolved to expel the 12 members from the alumni association of the class.

They demanded that "the military high command keep an eye on all Aljahoe members in personnel management so that they may work in those positions in which they cannot exercise their influence."

The 15th November meetings of the 37th and 40th class were originally scheduled as a year-end class reunion. But, meantime, the Aljahoe scandal cropped up; and when they met, they discussed the Aljahoe issue by an emergency motion. Among the members of the 37th and 40th class present were seven or eight Aljahoe members, who apologized by saying, "we are sorry we were the cause of discord and stirred up trouble."

Among the members of the 37th and 40th class present, quite many wore combat fatigues because they had to come hurriedly from the frontline areas. Some even came in a chartered bus.

Burma

SLORC Issues Order Reducing Prison Terms

BK0101141093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Jan 93

[State Law and Order Restoration Council, SLORC, Order No. 1/93, dated 1 January]

[Text] Reduction of Prison Sentences:

The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] has issued this order for the reduction of prison sentences to welcome the forthcoming National Convention.

The prison sentences of citizens, who have been convicted and given death sentences, life imprisonments, or prison sentences of more than 10 years by civil courts, military courts, or military tribunals during the period from 18 September 1988 to 31 December 1992, have been commuted as follows:

A. Sentences of convicted persons who received the death sentences have been commuted to life imprisonment;

B. Sentences of convicted persons who received life imprisonment have been commuted to 10 years imprisonment;

C. Sentences of convicted persons who received sentences of more than 10 years have been commuted to 10 years imprisonment;

This order shall not affect the convicted persons' original rights in receiving deduction.

This order is effective from 1 January 1993.

This order shall have the force of law.

Signed: Than Shwe, General, chairman of SLORC.

SLORC Leader Speaks on Independence Day

BK0401101793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0130 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Message by General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, SLORC, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary independence day of the Union of Burma, dated 4 January; read by announcer]

[Text] On this auspicious day, 4 January, the 45th anniversary of the gaining of the independence of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], I cordially and respectfully greet the people of all the national races.

Among the nations of the world, our Union of Myanmar has stood as a sovereign nation for thousands of years. And in the 19th century, the avaricious British imperialists, after waging three aggressive wars on Myanmar, colonized our nation and forced it into servitude. With a high sense of patriotism, the people of all national races, with whatever weapons they could lay their hands on, fought against the British imperialist's aggression, occupation, and enslavement. The patriots from among the various national races such as the Kachins, the Kayahs, the Karens, the Chins, the Burmans, the Mons, the Arakanese, and the Shans, who had taken part in the anti-imperialist and national liberation struggle, must be put on record as patriotic heroes in the annals of our history so that the names would last forever. Just as these patriotic heroes had struggled to regain national independence, there have been millions of service personnel and people including members of the defense services born of the people of the national races, who had fought sacrificing their lives in the struggles waged and in the battles fought in defense of national independence after regaining it so that it would not be lost again. Just as each and every independent nation in the world defends and safeguards national independence thus gained, the independent Myanmar has been defending and safeguarding our national independence and sovereignty steadfastly and resolutely.

Throughout the past 45 years, all the peoples of Myanmar bitterly suffered miseries because of the multicolored insurgents causing deaths, losing state-owned property, and hindering development activities of the nation. The insurgencies threaten perpetuity of national independence and affected peace, tranquility, and security of the people. This even resulted in lagging of social and economic developments of the people leaving us behind the world standard of living. The insurgents were invited many times to return to the legal fold to take part in building a peaceful, secure, prosperous nation. However, this came to nothing as they could not allow their self interests to be affected. Again, at the present moment, though they are invited to be able to attend the National Convention which is to be held with the aim of consolidating national unity, their coming to the legal fold could not be achieved as they cannot abandon their self interests. Hence, it is up to all national races to join hands with the government in striving for perpetuity of national independence, for ensuring peaceful and pleasant social life of the people, and in bringing about developments in all fields.

It is an undeniable fact that solidarity among all national races must be built up first before practically carrying out the development tasks for the benefit of all the national races and the nation. As such, the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] convenes the National Convention among the aims of which is to reforge solidarity among national races.

I emphatically urge, on this auspicious 45th anniversary of independence day which may be called the pre-National Convention period, all the representatives to fully implement at the National Convention, without partisan and racist concerns, the three main national causes—non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, consolidation and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The SLORC and together with the people will intensively carry out tasks of national defense and construction such as:

A. The three main national causes—non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and ensuring consolidation and perpetuation of sovereignty.

B. Prevalence of the rule of law and peace and tranquillity, smooth transportation, and easing food, clothing, and shelter needs of the people.

C. Giving great attention to and safeguarding the tasks of performing various development activities for the national races.

From this occasion of the 45th anniversary of independence day onwards, efforts for nurturing the spirit of patriotism and nationalism should be held uppermost while objectively reviewing and assessing the changing international and domestic situations with the view to bringing about the perpetuity of the state and public well-being. Moreover, in order to oppose colonialists and neo-colonialists and their minions, we must constantly be striving to keep nationalist fervor alive and dynamic in our minds.

Therefore, I would like to emphatically urge the public to implement with undaunted work, unyielding spirit, zeal and strength, the national objectives for the 45th anniversary of independence day, which are:

1. For all the citizens to unitedly make efforts for the perpetuity of the state, sovereignty, and integrity of the state.

2. For every citizen to make concerted effort for the emergence of the state constitution.

3. To keep patriotism and nationalist fervor ever alive.

Opposition Meets To Discuss Strategy 4-8 Jan

BK0301022493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] Anti-Rangoon ethnic and opposition movements will hold a four-day meeting beginning tomorrow to assess the political situation inside Burma and to draw up a strategy to counter the upcoming national convention organized by the Burmese junta.

The meeting of the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB) at the Karen headquarters of Manerplaw will end on Jan 8 with a press conference and a rally in protest at the national convention, scheduled for Jan 9 in Rangoon to set guidelines for the drafting of a new constitution.

Among items on the agenda are the council's role and policy, and the formation of seven committees to handle various issues such as military, foreign, information and education affairs.

It will also consider ways to counter the junta's planned national convention and an alternative constitution, which has been drafted and subject to two years of internal and international debate and revision.

The 47-member NCUB was formed in August as a de-facto parliament of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, the Democratic Alliance of Burma, the National Democratic Front, and the National League for Democracy in Liberated Areas (NLD-LA).

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

UMNO Youth Support Amendment on Monarchy

BK3112140892 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] A special meeting of the national UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth in Kuala Lumpur passed an extraordinary resolution supporting the proposed constitutional amendment concerning immunity of rulers. It also declared firm support to maintain constitutional monarchy in the country.

UMNO Youth President Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak told the news conference after the meeting that UMNO Youth would also help the party in explaining to the people the proposed amendment. He said UMNO Youth respected the rights of the people as enshrined in the Federal Constitution and would strive to uphold and defend them.

Reportage on Johor Sultan's Planned Rally

Civil Servants Barred

BK0201131693 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Jan 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] JOHOR BARU, Thurs.—The State Executive Council today directed all civil servants in Johor not to be involved in next week's proposed gathering at the Istana Besar here.

Menteri Besar [State Chief Minister] Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin also said the proposed gathering should be called off.

He said no government machinery should also be utilised in any way for the purpose of the proposed gathering.

Muhyiddin said the State Exco issued the directive after a special meeting this mormng.

Johor Baru Umno [United Malays National Organization] division chairman Datuk Shahrir Samad also urged the Sultan of Johor to call off the gathering.

He said it was unnecessary for the gathering to be held now as it could cause unrest in the state and split the Malays.

He said if the Sultan insisted on having a gathering, it should be organised by the State Govermnent.

Meanwhile, in Kuala Lumpur, Deputy Education Minister Dr Leo Michael Toyad said lecturers, teachers and students must obtain permission from the Education Minister to attend the gathering or face disciplinary action.

He said those found attending the gathering without permission risked being suspended or have their services terminated after being dealt with by the disciplinary board.

The final decision, he said, would depend on the severity of their cases.

He said since there were indications that the gathering was politically motivated, teachers and students would have to obtain permission to attend the gathering.

Muhyiddin told reporters after the meeting: "However, if the Sultan chooses not to heed our advice and proceeds with the gathering, we cannot stop him. But the State Government has directed that civil servants should not be involved.

"Even if the gathering goes on, it should not be seen as a barometer of the people of Johor's wishes on this issue because there are two million people in this State as opposed to the 10,000 people expected to attend the athering."

He said that he had also directed State Secretary Datuk Abdul Rahim Ramli not to issue any circular concerning the gathering.

The Exco, he added, felt that the function could not escape from being connected with political overtones even though the Sultan said yesterday that he forbade political parties from exploiting the gathering, the Menteri Besar said.

Muhyiddin, who had yet to be granted an audience by the Sultan since he came back from a meeting of Menteris Besar with the Prime Minister last week, said he would convey the advice of the State Government to the Sultan personally.

"However, in view of the urgency of the situation I might have to convey the advice through a letter which would be handed over to the Pengelola Bijaya di-Raja Johor [Johor Palace Office]," he said.

Earlier, after chairing a State development committee meeting, Muhyiddin said the rakyat, especially civil servants, were divided over whether to attend the proposed gathering.

Those who declined, he added, would be regarded as disloyal to the Sultan, but to attend would be to act against the advice of the Prime Minister.

The Sultan of Johor had said yesterday that the gathering would be held to enable him to meet his subjects. He also told the police not to stop the people from attending it.

The Menteri Besar conceded that his call for the gathering to be aborted could be misconstrued as defying the wishes of the Sultan.

"But this is what the State Government feels. If any untoward incident were to happen at the gathering, it is the Government which has to take the responsibility," he added.

Muhyiddin said he would very much like to explain to the Sultan the Government's stand but faced a snag as he had yet to be granted an audience by the Ruler.

"If I cannot call on the Sultan, I am not able to channel my advice to him.

"Of course, it is not proper for a Menteri Besar to issue advice to the Ruler through the Press and I had never done this before.

"So, I pray that I will be granted an audience to give me an opportunity to explain and advise accordingly," he added.

Shahrir then urged members of the Royal Council to play their role and advise the Sultan to cancel the gathering.

Shahrir also criticised the council which, he said, had failed to give proper advice to the Sultan which had led to the current situation.

He urged all quarters not to create unnecessary tension over the issue and to wait for Jan 9 when Umno leaders will meet the Rulers to discuss the matter.

Sultan Cancels Rally

BK0301143793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1421 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 3 (AFP)—The sultan of the southern state of Johor cancelled Sunday a massive rally he had planned to hold ahead of a government move to strip hereditary rulers of their immunity from prosecution.

Sultan Iskandar Ismail said he decided to put off the rally, which he earlier wanted held at his palace grounds on January 8, in the interests of security and racial solidarity.

"I thank Allah (God) for having given me guidance to enable me to maintain peace and racial solidarity," the BERNAMA news agency quoted the ruler as saying in the Johor capital of Johor Baharu late Sunday.

The sultan's decision came a day after Inspector-General of Police Hanif Omar met him for about five hours to coax him into cancelling the rally.

Sources said the sultan's nine-member advisory panel, which met earlier Sunday, also urged the strong-willed ruler to put off the gathering.

Sultan Iskandar had said that the rally was a "mass audience open to all my subjects" and insisted that he did not require a police permit as it would be held within the grounds of his state palace.

But Hanif was reported saying that a permit was required even for gatherings held in private places that had more than 20 people participating and needed police control.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who said the government would request parliament to amend the federal constitution on January 18 to deprive rulers of their immunity from prosecution, had asked the people to boycott the rally.

Multi-racial Malaysia's nine hereditary rulers, who are above the law, elect one of their number every five years to serve as king under a unique system of constitutional monarchy introduced on independence from Britain in 1957.

Mahathir had said the rally smacked of politics and that he had evidence to show that the Malay-based opposition party, Spirit of 46, led by former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, had a hand in it.

Civil servants and members of component parties in the National Front coalition government had been warned of disciplinary action if they attended the rally, which the sultan was scheduled to address.

Johor chief minister Muhyiddin Yassin, who warned earlier that the rally was a threat to public safety, praised the Sultan for the "wise decision."

The federal government's proposal to strip the rulers of their immunity from prosecution followed a public outcry over Sultan Iskandar's alleged assault on a field hockey coach for criticising the withdrawal of Johor teams from national hockey matches.

The withdrawal was said to have been on a directive from the Johor palace after the ruler's son was suspended from competing in hockey tournaments for reportedly beating up an opposing goalkeeper.

Parliament was recently told that the father and son were involved in 23 assault cases on commoners since March 1972.

Mahathir Applauds Cancellation

BK0401065893 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir says he is happy with the announcement by his royal highness, the sultan of Johor, to postpone the gathering scheduled for Friday at the Istana Besar [Grand Palace] in Johor Baru. The postponement will avoid any tension. The prime minister described this as a good sign. He was responding to questions from newsmen in Kuala Lumpur.

The sultan made the announcement after the completion of Koran reading of his daughter, Tengku Mona, at Istana Besar. His Royal Highness said the gathering has been postponed indefinitely after taking into account several factors.

On the meeting of the opposition party's Semangat 46 [Spirit of 46 Party] president, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, and his deputy Datuk Rais Yatim, with the Malay rulers, the prime minister said it is their prerogative.

However, he hopes that no political parties are dragged into the issue. The government's aim is to safeguard the image of the rulers and not to remove their powers.

Mahathir Delivers New Year Message

BK0101111193 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Speech by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed—live or recorded, place not given]

[Text] Peace be upon you! We should be grateful to Almighty God for enabling us to celebrate the new year in peace and harmony.

In a world full of turbulence, the peace and stability that we enjoy are blessings indeed and should be highly appreciated, considering that different parts of the world are plagued with war, conflicts and famine.

Apart from that, we still continue to progress and prosper while some other places face an economic slowdown. In view of that, we ought to be even more grateful for the achievement and what we experienced for the whole of 1992, which by God's will, are the results of moderation and the relentless efforts of the multi-racial people in this country.

Our continued national stability is the result of cooperation among the people of all races who always make great efforts to ensure that harmony and unity are maintained in this country. The key to maintaining the national solidarity that we are proud of is the spirit of tolerance and mutual respect for one another.

The close solidarity and cooperation among the Malaysian races have enabled our country to have political, economic, and social stability. The cooperation among all Malaysians will ensure that the economy will continue to register the required growth rate.

Ladies and gentlemen! Malaysia has experienced five consecutive years of economic growth. The high growth rate has enabled the country to continue to provide and to improve facilities for the comfort of the people. Nowadays, the people enjoy better living standards. Malaysians not only have good basic facilities, they are also have various facilities usually available in developed countries only. The people's high income levels have also increased their purchasing power. Besides, the standard of our health services and education are among the best few among developing countries. This is important as the country's development and progress are dependent on healthy and continuous economic expansion.

Previously, many had predicted this country would be unstable and deteriorate as it is multiracial and needs to distribute its national wealth evenly to all races. But today it is obvious that the prediction is wrong. On the contrary, the country can prove that the social engineering process does not negatively affect our economic growth, and a high rate of economic growth has been achieved within a harmonious and stable environment. Our success is such that many foreign countries consider Malaysia as an example of successful development efforts within a complex and democratic society.

Although the country's economic achievement is something to be proud of, there is a need for caution as high economic growth may not be sustained. After five consecutive years of rapid growth, the economy is expected to undergo a process of consolidation. Although there are early signs that a recovery is in the making especially in Japan and the United States, most of the economies of the industrialized countries are still ailing.

The latest development in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT; European Community, EC; and North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA; while opening new opportunities, are expected to pose even greater challenges to Malaysia's economy. Hence the economy is expected to grow by about 8 percent next year, compared to 8.5 percent this year. Although this is still an encouraging rate, Malaysia can no longer take for granted that economic growth will always be high. The responsibility of ensuring that the economy will continue to expand is not the government's alone. It is the task and responsibility of all Malaysians. The government wants all parties to cooperate to ensure that the economy can still record the required growth rate.

Ladies and gentlemen! Malaysians can play their role by being thrifty in their spending in an effort to curb inflation. They should also increase their savings so that they can be used for productive investment. Strong domestic savings is needed to ensure that investment in the country can be increased. Likewise, workers can contribute by increasing their productivity and efficiency while not making unreasonable demands for pay increases. Any wage increase must commensurate with an increase in productivity. Wage increases unaccompanied by higher productivity can only result in Malaysian products being uncompetitive. When this happens, the losers will be the employers, the country, and the workers themselves.

The exporters, on their part, should be more aggressive in making the necessary adjustments to seize whatever opportunity is made available by changes in the international economic and political scenarios. They should also be bold enough to penetrate new markets and not limit themselves to traditional ones in the effort to widen markets for Malaysian goods. In this context, the government has initiated moves to improve relations with countries of the South. It is now up to Malaysian companies to seize these opportunities.

Malaysia has the vast natural resources and capable human resources to become a developed country. But these resources alone are not sufficient without a change in attitude and good discipline among Malaysians. Negative attitudes which impede even greater excellence must be discarded and replaced with good values such as hard work, integrity and discipline.

I am confident that if all parties carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively and intensify their efforts, the country will be able to face all the challenges in 1993 and the years to come. All this while, we have proven our capability in facing various challenges. There is no reason why we would not be able to overcome the challenges in 1993.

Ladies and gentlemen! As I have stressed earlier, political stability is important in our effort to achieve development. Without political stability, we can never achieve the developed nation status that we wish for. I hope Malaysians will continue to maintain the existing harmony and unity so that the country continues to progress and prosper. We should take note of what is happening in countries where ethnic clashes are taking place. Ethnic clashes should be prevented because they would cause suffering to the people. Let us make a renewed commitment to maintain our existing racial harmony and solidarity. Actually our country, which is multiracial, multicultural, and multireligious, can be a source of inspiration to enable the country to continue to progress.

Finally, I wish to extend my happy new year greeting to all Malaysians and hope that 1993 will bring more achievements and prosperity to all of us.

May God bless you and guide us! Peace be upon you again.

China Becomes 9th Largest Trading Partner

BK3112115192 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Dec 92 p 7

[Text] Muar, Tues—China became Malaysia's ninth largest trading partner last year compared to its 17th position in 1988 when both countries signed the Bilateral Trade Agreement to liberalize trade and economic relations. Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Chua Jui Meng said between 1986 and 1991, imports from China increased by 203 per cent while exports to China soared by 317 per cent.

He said Malaysia's trade with China constituted only about one per cent of the total global trade, and about two per cent of China's total global trade. Nevertheless, Chua said there was much room for improvement in view of the strong economic performance of both countries. He said Malaysia and China represent two dynamic economies within the East Asia region with strong economic growth rates.

Both governments have clear vision for the economic development of their respective countries and international circles, he said.

"They will become increasingly important players in the world's markets," he said at the Malaysia-Chinese Economic and Investment seminar organized by MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] Bakri division here today. Chua said Muslim Malaysians would stand an initial advantage in trade with nations of the Organization of Islamic Countries. Similarly, he said Malaysian Indians had a natural advantage in the emerging market of India. He said Malaysian Chinese, due to language, culture and kinship, enjoy a natural advantage in China.

Cambodia

15-26 Dec Truce Violations by KR Reported

BK0201071593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] According to a military report from Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, between 1000 and 1130 on 25 December a group of 100-150 Khmer Rouge soldiers from the 51st, 52d, and 57th battalions of Division 980 attacked the positions of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] in Sre Khvav and Kouk Dong areas at Lvea village, forcing the people's forces to retreat temporarily.

In Battambang Province on 15 December at 0500, between 20 and 25 Khmer Rouge elements committed a cease-fire violation in Bavel district by raiding the CPAF's position at Pong Ro for 30 minutes.

In Banteay Srei district [Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province] on 25 December, one of the eight land mines planted by Khmer Rouge troops in the areas on coordinates 19/96 and 22/96 controlled by the CPAF's 41st Battalion wounded a villager. The remainder of the mines were destroyed by the CPAF troops.

In Chikreng district on 25 December, a group of 15 or 20 Khmer Rouge soldiers attacked and fired 10 artillery shells on the area on coordinates CV42/42 on National Route 6. And in Puok District on 24 December at 1100, the Khmer Rouge raided Kouk Dong and Prey Voal areas.

In Kompong Speu Province on 26 December an armored carrier of the 68th Battalion, 97th Regiment of the CPAF carrying a large sum of money to pay the troops stationed in Choam Sangke area in Phnum Sruoch district was ambushed by the Khmer Rouge with B-62 rocket launchers. As a result, four CPAF combatants on board the carrier were killed and 10 others wounded and the armored vehicle and money were badly burned.

NADK General Addresses Military Meeting

BK0201031893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Jan 93

["Essence" of "Address by General Khieu Sophon, representative of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea at the 28th meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group, first level, at the office of the Naval Force of UNTAC in Phnom Penh, concerning the demand by the Phnom Penh side for the return of naval troops' weapons gathered by UNTAC;"—read by announcer]

[Text] On 30 December 1992, at the 28th meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group held at the office of the Naval Force of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], General Khieu Sophon, representative of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], read an address concerning the demand by the Phnom Penh side for the return of naval troops' weapons gathered by UNTAC.

Following is the essence of the address:

Including the issue of the Phnom Penh side's demand for the return of naval troops' weapons gathered by UNTAC in the agenda of this meeting is not reasonable. UNTAC documents have also expressed regret over this demand by the Phnom Penh side. The current situation in Cambodia clearly shows that whatever the incident which took place, it is the result of UNTAC not implementing the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

The Cambodian people nation and people inside and outside the country agree that UNTAC has not implemented the agreement. The 13 and 14 December 1992 statements by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]; and the 21 December 1992 message of His Excellency Son Sann, have clearly stated that UNTAC has not implemented the Paris accord. In particular, UNTAC has not implemented the following major points:

1. UNTAC has not given a role to the SNC to fulfill its task as the legitimate and the sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period. Instead,

UNTAC has maintained the regime, puppet of the Yuon [Vietnamese], in power and let it decide on state affairs;

2. UNTAC has not checked on the Yuon and has colluded with the puppets to preserve old Yuon forces in Cambodia and allowed new Yuon forces to successively flow into Cambodia. There are now over 2 million Yuon aggressor forces in Cambodia; over 1 million of them are already in possession of Cambodian identity cards. This is a great danger for the survival of the Cambodian nation and people;

3. UNTAC has not cooperated with the SNC to control the five ministries, particularly the National Defense and Interior Ministries. UNTAC has allowed these ministries to be entirely in the hands of the Yuon aggressors and the Phnom Penh side. This is why the Yuon aggressors and the Phnom Penh side have been doing everything at will. They have launched attacks, robbed people in villages, carried out political terrorist and fascist activities; assassinated people and members of various political parties, for example those in the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party in Battambang, Pursat, Takhmau, Kompong Som, Svay Rieng, and other provinces nationwide.

These cruel acts by the Yuon aggressors and their puppets to assassinate people and members of various political parties are taking place right under the eyes of UNTAC police, which have turned a blind eye and allowed the Yuon and their puppets to do as they please.

People still remember that the root cause of the war in Cambodia is the Yuon aggression and occupation of Cambodia. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea, like the Cambodian nation, people, and Cambodian national resistance forces, hold that only when UNTAC implements the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement correctly and meticuluosly can the Yuon war of aggression in Cambodia be ended and can Cambodia recover genuine independence, peace, and neutrality with territorial integrity without the Yuon aggressors on Cambodian territory.

KR Guerrillas' Offensive in North Reported

BK0401021893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0207 GMT 4 Jan 93

[By Sherri Prasso]

[Text] Chaom Khsan, Cambodia, Jan 4 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas commanded by the fearsome one-legged General Ta Mok appeared to be pushing eastwards to capture villages in remote areas of northern Cambodia ahead of UN-run elections, UN peacekeepers here said.

About 1,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas appeared to be developing a "coordinated push" eastward in Preah Vihear Province into two communes, according to UN military observers and members of a 110-strong Pakistani company interviewed at this northern provincial post near the Thai border over the weekend.

Weekend shelling also hit the area around the Pakistani battalion's UN headquarters southeast of here at Phum Kulen, confirming the eastward push, the UN peacekeepers said.

Ta Mok, the feared general who earned a reputation as "the butcher" during Pol Pot's fanatical reign from 1975 to 1979, is believed to command four divisions from his headquarters just outside this province's border.

On the western edge of Ta Mok's zone of control in Siem Reap, 45 UN peacekeepers had to be evacuated on New Year's Eve as guerrillas purposefully targetted UN personnel with a mortar attack. No injuries were reported.

Ta Mok's zone includes the critical "Pol Pot trail" which leads south from Thailand resupplying Khmer Rouge troops in Cambodia's disputed strategic central provinces, including Kompong Thom.

The general also runs a Khmer Rouge guerrilla training camp in the province, Phnom Penh government military officials told the UN peacekeepers, who could not independently confirm it.

The guerrillas, members of Khmer Rouge Division 612, were believed to be based at a former diamond mine in a mountain bordering Thailand, UN military observer Major Paul Wenck said.

Shelling at Kantout village in the final week of December started fires visible from a helicopter, and mined roads have prevented a UN electoral registration team from visiting the area. The elections are scheduled for May.

Directly south of there, Phnom Penh's armed forces lost contact with a company fighting the Khmer Rouge over villages around Yang commune last week, and their status was unknown, the UN officials said.

Khmer Rouge forces solidly control villages five kilometers (three miles) northwest of Kantout and eight kilometers (five miles) west of Yang, the head of the Pakistani company said.

He was seeking contact with the Khmer Rouge commander to try to halt the ceasefire violations, he said.

The Khmer Rouge have not sent a liaison officer to discuss ceasefire violations with the peacekeepers, who are part of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Ta Mok's men "are fairly aggressive and really don't want to have anything to do with UNTAC," Wenck said.

Up to 100 people reportedly have been displaced by the fighting, and the peacekeepers planned a helicopter reconaissance mission Tuesday to investigate the ceasefire violations.

This border post itself was evacuated in early November as shelling hit the outskirts of the village, but the attacks were later thought to be the work of a drunken Phnom Penh Government soldier, and all UNTAC personnel returned a few days later.

Peacekeepers Evacuated After Attack by KR

BK0101020893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0151 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 1 (AFP)—There were no injuries among 45 UN personnel evacuated late Thursday from northeastern Cambodia where they had been pinned down for more than 11 hours under a Khmer Rouge mortar attack, UN spokesman Lt.-Colonel Richard Palk said Friday.

The UN party comprised 27 Bangladeshi troops, nine members of the electoral team, four policemen, two military observers, a signaller and two interpreters.

Palk said they were evacuated just after night fell on the area.

They were removed on one helicopter from Svay Leu, 540 kilometers (31 miles) north of Siem Reap to nearby Phum Tayek.

The peacekeepers, members of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), had come under attack Thursday in remote Svay Leu village. UN spokesmen variously described the barrage as "intense" and "sporadic" but it held off any relief of the personnel all day long.

UN spokesman Eric Falt described the attack Thursday as "a very significant development, the first time we have had a direct attack on the UN" by the Khmer Rouge.

The attack came only hours before the United Nations-imposed sanctions against the faction for its refusal to participate in the Cambodian peace process. UN officials refused comment on whether the attack was linked to the UN move.

An embargo on exporting logs out of Cambodia went into effect with the start of the new year. The trade has not been independently quantified, but a Khmer Rouge spokesman said it earned the Marxist faction less than one million dollars a month.

To Return 'as Soon as Possible'

BK0101114893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 1 (AFP)—U.N. personnel evacuated from a remote post subjected to prolonged Khmer Rouge mortar fire will return as soon as possible to prepare for elections, a U.N. official said Friday.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt told reporters here the situation at Svay Leu, in the northwest of Cambodia, was "basically quiet" since the 45 U.N. personnel abandoned the outpost late Thursday.

"As soon as we are assured the situation is quiet, we will go back," said Falt.

"We have all of January to determine when that time will be. There is plenty of time," he said, adding that voter registration was continuing in the southern part of Svay Leu district.

The U.N. personnel were pinned down all day by Khmer Rouge mortar crews who hammered the area around the U.N. outpost in Svay Leu, a remote village about 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Siem Reap.

The firing occurred the day before the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) introduced sanctions against the Khmer Rouge for their refusal to comply with the Cambodian peace process, including a ban on their lucrative export of timber.

There were no injuries among the 27 Bangladeshi soldiers, nine Cambodians, four U.N. civilian policemen, two electoral workers and one Australian communications expert trapped by the Khmer Rouge barrage.

One building and a radio tower were heavily damaged, according to Falt. An unknown quantity of equipment was left behind during the evacuation.

Although armed, the Bangladeshi soldiers did not return fire during the attack, which ended after U.N. officials negotiated a ceasefire with a Khmer Rouge liaison official in Siem Reap.

"We were told that the shelling would stop at 6:00 P.M., and when it did stop, we flew an Mi-17 helicopter up there for the evacuation," said Falt. The helicopter made two trips.

U.N. forces refused to say how they would respond to the shelling by the guerrilla faction, the latest confrontation between the radical Marxist faction and UNTAC, whose task is to guide the country to multi-party elections in some five months.

A total of 23 U.N. helicopters have been fired on with small arms, and a number of factions are suspected of responsibility, including the Khmer Rouge.

Earlier in December, the Khmer Rouge detained U.N. military observers, holding them overnight against their will on three separate occasions. In one incident a U.N. truck was destroyed.

That the Khmer Rouge would finally attack a U.N. post outright was "only a matter of time," a U.N. observer, who declined to be identified for reasons of "personal safety," told AFP.

Last week the Khmer Rouge, who firmly control about 10 percent of the country, warned that security could not be assured for those who entered their zones.

The area they attacked Thursday is controlled by a military faction loyal to the Phnom Penh government but is contested by the Khmer Rouge.

Khmer Rouge Deny Shelling Team

BK0201020493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Jan 93

["Denial by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea spokesman on the exaggerated report deliberately accusing the Party of Democratic Kampuchea of shelling Svay Leu in Siem Reap Province;" date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] I. Some foreign radios have reported that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] shelled an UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] team in Svay Leu, Siem Reap Province.

II. The PDK spokesman categorically rejects this deliberately slanderous and ill-intentioned propaganda.

III. The Cambodian situation is getting very complicated because:

A. The 23 October 1991 Paris agreement has not been implemented;

B. The Supreme National Council [SNC] has not been given the role as the legitimate and the sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period;

C. The withdrawal of the Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressor forces from Cambodia has not been verified; and

D. UNTAC has not cooperated with the SNC in controlling the five ministries. The Yuon aggressor forces continue to commit aggression against and occupy Cambodia. UNTAC has colluded with the Yuon and puppets and allowed the latter to carry out fascist activities at will in cities and military activities to attack the national resistance forces of Democratic Kampuchea in rural areas. It is in such a situation that various events have taken place one after another.

Therefore, to solve big and small problems that have successively taken place, the basic and root cause problem should be solved: that is, the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement should be correctly and meticuluosly implemented, including the following:

1. Give the SNC the role of legitimate and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period;

2. Cooperate with the SNC to verify that all types of Yuon aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia;

3. UNTAC should cooperate with the SNC to control the five ministries.

IV. National and foreign opinion has noted that UNTAC had not been neutral over the past year. UNTAC was fully, grossly, and shamelessly on the side of the Yuon and puppets despite criticism, opposition, and other people telling it so. UNTAC and allies inside and outside UNTAC stubbornly continue to defend the Yuon and puppets. These are facts:

A. Any incident caused by the Yuon and puppets are blamed on Democratic Kampuchea [DK];

B. Even if there is nothing at all, stories were made up or concocted to dupe others and accuse DK;

C. When there is clear evidence that the Yuon and puppets were the culprits, such as the successive grenade attacks and the assassination of members of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, all UNTAC said was that it will investigate. Nothing was done afterward as this was forgotten.

This is the real situation in Cambodia at present. Concerning the question of who is responsible for the dark situation in Cambodia at present, please refer to the 13 and 14 December statements by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman.

Sihanouk Releases Letter to Press 4 Jan

BK0401094093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Jan 4 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk released a letter from Beijing on Monday saying he would quit cooperating with the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) before he even gave it to UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi. The letter had not been received as of late afternoon Monday, UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt said.

"There's no reaction for the time being," he said, adding that Akashi was on vacation with his family until Wednesday.

Falt confirmed two attacks on the offices of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party loyal to Prince Sihanouk over the weekend—incidents cited by the prince as the reason for his decision to quit cooperation with UNTAC, and with the Phnom Penh government. The prince's statement said five people were killed, but UNTAC said it tallied one death and two injuries.

Late Saturday night, Cambodian witnesses told U.N. peacekeepers that men wearing Phnom Penh government army uniforms shot up the FUNCINPEC office in Bavel district in western Cambodia's Battambang Province, he said. Two Cambodians were injured, Falt said.

In nearby Sisophon, in the province of Banteay Meanchey, on Sunday, a man on a motorbike threw a hand grenade at the FUNCINPEC party provincial headquarters. Security guard Roeun Sopheap, 19, was killed, Falt said.

FUNCINPEC has come under a spate of what UNTAC says appear to be politically motivated attacks, and dozens of people have been killed or injured.

With rampant corruption in the Phnom Penh government, Cambodians have turned increasingly to FUNCINPEC and its membership is growing by the day despite the attacks.

Prince Sihanouk said UNTAC's inability to halt the violence was a primary reason for his decision.

The Phnom Penh government had no immediate reaction, but Prime Minister Hun Sen had a press conference scheduled for Tuesday.

Rejects Cooperation With UN Body

HK0401084393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan 4 (AFP)—Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here Monday that he would no longer cooperate with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and the Phnom Penh government.

In a message dated Monday to UNTAC head Yasushi Akashi released to the press in Beijing, where Sihanouk is having medical treatment, the prince cited harassment of the pro-royalist FUNCINPEC [United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party for his decision.

He alleged "persistent and ignominious crimes" against FUNCINPEC, one of the parties represented on the Supreme National Council which Sihanouk heads along with the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

UNTAC is preparing the country for general elections later this year under the agreement that officially ended the Cambodian civil war in October 1991.

FUNCINPEC, headed by Sihanouk's son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, had been the target of several attacks over the weekend which had left five party workers dead, Sihanouk alleged in another message to Akashi dated Sunday but only published Monday.

The alleged authors of the attacks, on FUNCINPEC offices in Prey Veng, Battambang and Bantey Meanchey, were not spelled out.

But Sihanouk quoted Ranariddh as saying that "UNTAC continues to do nothing serious to end or put down these acts of political terrorism."

He accused UNTAC of moving out of some of its own offices adjoining those of FUNCINPEC which risked being attacked.

Editorial Expresses 1993 New Year Greetings

BK0101031293 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 31 Dec 92

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Have Luminous Intelligence and Clairvoyance in This New Year in Order To Correctly Mold the Fate of the Country and Nation"]

[Text] The 1993 new year has already begun. It is the final year of implementation of the Paris peace accord in which free and fair general elections are to be held in Cambodia. In the old year of 1992, efforts and great sacrifices were made with a high sense of responsibility and sublime patriotism by the Cambodian People's Party, the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], cadres, employees, Buddhist monks, intellectuals, religious organizations, and our people across the country—who have harmoniously united under the cool shade of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk and who have struggled to surmount all manner of difficulties, contributing to achieving the two supreme tasks: successful execution of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord and the guarantee of social stability and people's livelihoods.

In 1992, although faced with numerous complicated problems ensuing from the Khmer Rouge's refusal to implement the accord and their constant violation of the accord, and despite maneuvers by some political parties to cause political divisions and instigate turmoil and disturbances aimed at seriously affecting a neutral political atmosphere, the SOC, the incumbent administration, has strived to promote unity by patiently overcoming all kinds of difficulties and has successfully maintained stability and security in society, creating favorable conditions for implementation of the accord. It has also actively and sincerely participated in implementation of the Paris accord in line with the wishes of the UN.

So far, we have taken a big step at this difficult stage. The Supreme National Council [SNC] chaired by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the Cambodian nation, and the UN peacekeeping mission have continued to perform their tasks according to the spirit of the Paris accord under the favorable conditions provided by the SOC Government and the Cambodian people. The Paris accord is being further implemented as planned despite impediments and boycotts from the Khmer Rouge. And at present, the voter registration process is being actively carried out all over the country.

The 1993 new year is the final year of the agreement's implementation in which a resolute determination nationwide is required to guarantee normal livelihood in society, thereby further creating favorable conditions for the eventual success of implementation of the accord.

However, in this new year obstacles continue to exist in every sector, specifically in the military, political, socioeconomic, and social security fields, due to the Khmer Rouge faction's refusal to implement the Paris accord. As such, in this situation all should have further common views and actions and continue to join hands to patiently and painstakingly shore up the situation with a view to overcoming all manner of difficulties and obstacles in order to allow our motherland to reach the shore of genuine peace.

What is crucial in the new year for the destiny and future of our motherland and people are the general elections to choose a Cambodian president or head of state and a constituent assembly for our country. It is our people who will decide the fate of our nation. So everyone should understand that what we do is for ourselves, our motherland, and prevention of the return of the Pol Pot genocidal regime in Cambodia. Have new energy and luminous intelligence and clairvoyance in this new year in order to correctly mold the fate of our motherland and people.

In this new year, may the prince head of state and father of the nation have great physical strength, the best of health, and clear-sightedness so as to fulfill his task of achieving peace, national reunification, and the development of our country.

And may the party-state leaders, people, and compatriots as well as international workers—who have left their countries and families to fulfill peacekeeping missions in Cambodia for the supreme cause of maintaining international peace and security—from the five continents of the world have all the best in this new year.

In this new year, new hope, peace, and national reunification will certainly re-emerge in our beloved motherland.

Indonesia

Suharto Delivers New Year Address

BK0201092993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1215 GMT 31 Dec 92

[New Year address by General Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia, on 31 December; live or recorded—place not given]

[Text] In the name of Almighty God, merciful and compassionate! Beloved fellow countrymen! May peace be unto you! In a few moments, we will leave behind the year 1992 and we will enter a new year. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my 1993 new year greetings to all beloved countrymen, youths, and all Indonesians worldwide.

I sincerely hope that in entering the new year, you will achieve new progress, success, and greater peace. Even though it is a bit late, I would also like to extend my Christmas greetings to all Indonesians of the Christian faith. I hope that along with the spirit of Christmas, a new spirit will prevail in your future endeavors in making greater contributions to the people and country.

The atmosphere during this new year is shrouded by a somber concern. Our brothers and sisters in Flores are currently living in sorrowful and despicable conditions because they have lost loved ones and property and are facing other difficulties due to the horrendous earthquake which hit that region recently. Once again, I implore all Indonesians from every walk of life to extend generous humanitarian contributions with a feeling of goodwill to our most unfortunate and pitiful brothers and sisters who were badly affected by the disaster. I also pray to Almighty God to bestow His blessings upon those who have fallen victim to the earthquake and to those who escaped the disaster; I pray that God will bestow peace and calm upon them.

Taking this opportunity on behalf of all Indonesians, I would like to extend my grateful thanks to all who have sent condolences and various forms of humanitarian assistance, particularly numerous national leaders and international organizations.

Beloved fellow countrymen! As in previous years, I would like to ask you to recall the developments and achievements that we have acquired throughout 1992. Now I call upon you to fully understand the meaning of our cumulative experiences and efforts in facing this new year. Looking at a glance, we are currently in the center of our national development programs. The development (?process) we have carried out and achieved so far was made possible through our human resources and the prevailing situation in the country. We perceive that we have achieved progress through these developments. What is important is that we learn from our previous shortfalls as well as our achievements. We should replenish areas in need of replenishment, rectify our mistakes, further strengthen our solidarity and strive harder for more progress and achievements. Only through greater realization and greater efforts will we be able to overcome our mistakes, and our future progress should be achieved with greater confidence. Self-confidence is of utmost importance because our journey will be a long one regarding the development programs we will undertake during the next five years, and, unavoidably, we will be confronted with numerous stiff challenges. Therefore, we will continue our development process with a more realistic and aspiring attitude. Without a realistic and aspiring approach, we will absolutely fail and our hopes will be shattered. Our ambitious hopes will be dashed and we will end up despondent and miserable. A nation which has lost its hope and aspirations can never be progressive.

Beloved fellow countrymen! As a dynamic nation, every year we pass through conveys a special meaning to us. In 1992, we accomplished three major events: first, holding the general elections in July; second, forming the MPR-DPR [House of Parliament and House of Representatives]; and third, hosting the 10th high-level Nonaligned

Movement [NAM] conference. These three major events were of great significance to us and the development of our country. The general election was the fifth held since the establishment of the 1945 Constitution. The elections were carried out smoothly and without any untoward incidents. More than 90 percent of the voters exercised their democratic right, which is a high percentage compared with some other developed countries. All this proved our ability and self-confidence. Democracy in this country is currently considered strong and is still flourishing and strengthening.

The MPR's important role is to determine the Broad Guidelines of National Policy [GBHN]. The GBHN will provide directions and guidelines for achieving strategic targets for our nation's second phase 25-year development period. We sincerely hope that our representatives in the MPR perform their duties with an open mind, greater responsibility, and a greater and viable vision. Thus, any decision would be accepted as a true effort toward benefiting our people and nation in facing a new era together.

We hope that in entering the new era, our country and people will be more progressive, more successful, and more confident. We should be more confident in keeping abreast with other nations which have gone far ahead of us. The brighter future we so desire can only be realized through our own efforts and solidarity. Only through such efforts can we achieve our desired future aspirations. I take this opportunity to repeat my statement that there is not one group—however strong or huge it may be—that would be successful in facing future challenges and reaping benefits through a solitary effort. As the proverb says: United we stand, divided we fall.

We should further strive to foster and to strengthen greater fraternal feelings, not only among ourselves, but also with other nations. We are currently thriving in a world that needs greater solidarity. No nation can be progressive and prosperous if it isolates itself from other nations. Therefore, we are very concerned about the suffering currently facing our fellow man in other parts of the world such as Bosnia-Hercegovina, as well as in other parts of the globe. We are currently witnessing innocent Somalians and their children suffering malnutrition.

In an ever-changing world, we should be constantly alert in understanding people's interests. We should be precise in making decisions about facing the future. We should be active in developing the world's future and social justice based on the independence gained by several nations. Therefore, the high-level conference of the Nonalignment Movement, which was held in September last year, was considered significant in this connection. One hundred eight developing nations voiced their respective sentiments and aspirations. During the conference, most of the representatives pledged to further strengthen solidarity among member nations by making their countries more progressive and developed—particularly among South-South nations. The topic of democracy and human rights also dominated NAM discussions.

After becoming free from the shackles of a 350-year period of colonialization, we have shown the world that we fully understand what democracy and human rights mean. Our 1945 Constitution was drawn up based on democracy and human rights in our struggle for independence. We fully understand that democracy and the respect for human rights emerged as a result of our own awareness concerning people's social freedom. We are not divided into classes as a result of our Pancasila concept. Our national stability proved to be more dynamic in 1992 even though some minor cases occurred.

With dynamic national stability, we are able to focus our attention on the common task of carrying out socioeconomic development. This is the only way that will enable us to achieve progress, prosperity, peace, and social justice.

Fellow countrymen! Let us now take a look at the current economic situation and on ways to restructure our economy next year. The success achieved by our food sector is something that we can be proud of. The production of paddy, corn, and soybean increased steadily this year when compared to previous years, where the production of these three commodities in 1991 was lower than that of 1990. The agricultural sector, particularly the cultivation of food crops, plays an important role in our economic development. Production from food crops contributes greatly to the economic stability of our country. It is also very significant for improving the welfare of the people because the majority of our society works in the agricultural sector.

The development achieved by the energy sector has also made us happy. In 1992 the overall production of manufactured goods recorded an increase even though production from some factories was low. The steady rise in export value of petroleum products is very heartening indeed. This is due to development in technology and equipment.

Of late, major achievements are mainly derived from the energy sector. In 1992 the government obtained a larger amount of revenue from foreign investment than it received in 1991 and the previous year. The amount derived from local investment in the country is less when compared to preceding years. However, on the whole the total value of capital investment in the country this year is much bigger than in 1987-88. The 1992 economic performance grew by more than 10 percent when compared to that of 1989. Meanwhile, the value of domestic capital investment this year is large enough to support considerable rapid economic growth.

It is very heartening indeed to know that our adequate economic performance took place in the midst of our monetary control. We have been successful in keeping the inflation rate below 5 percent this year. This is the lowest inflation rate over the past seven years. Thus we managed to achieve our main objective of the monetary policy that came into effect two fiscal years ago to overcome the difficult economic situation. The overheating national economy is now beginning to cool. However, even if this is so, we must continue to rely on cautious fiscal and monetary policies in the future to prevent the economy from overheating again. The low rate of inflation is very meaningful to us because it shows that we have been successful in curbing inflation and maintaining an equitable distribution of development. The effective monetary policy has not made the broad masses of our people pay high prices for essential goods.

The country's foreign exchange reserves continue to show the encouraging economic situation in the country. The revenue we received from the export of oil and gas products, and nonoil, nongas commodities reached the targetted amount. Another important indication of our stable economy is the favorable balance of payments situation. As I said earlier, there is a steady increase of nonoil, nongas commodities exports. Besides, there are controllable and efficient imports. What is most promising is the export value of manufactured goods, which helped the jump in increasing nonoil and nongas exports. This development is very meaningful to us because over the past few years we had been striving for entry into the industrialization era, and the take-off of the second long-term national development period within the next 25 years.

Meanwhile, the growth of foreign loans by state-owned enterprises and private companies decreased in 1992 after increasing over the past two years. The country's foreign exchange reserves are more than U.S. $11 billion. The amount is sufficient to pay for our imports over a period of five months. This figure puts the national economy in a safe situation.

The general outlook of the national economic situation shows that in 1992, our economic activities were not at all dull; instead they are becoming stronger and growing. We are aware that our economic growth is slow, but we welcome the economic slowdown as a means to cool the overheating rapid economic growth. We believe that our economic growth comes with political stability, and this is healthy.

An economic situation which is heartening does not mean that we no longer have any problems to solve. However, we must remain careful and vigilant in the coming years. We must continue to rely on our fiscal and monetary disciplines. The banking and financial sector should continue to be consolidated to maintain its resilience. This sector has to pay serious attention to efforts to strengthen its position. We have to develop a more firm, efficient, and trustworthy banking sector; and we still have to increase our productivity and to improve our efficiency and competitiveness in this sector.

We have not fully eliminated the high cost of economic production. As such, we will conscientiously continue with the debureaucratization and deregulation processes. The lack of an economic infrastructure is the major obstacle to our economic progress. We will definitely establish more infrastructure in the future—with the provision of more electricity supply, road networks, ports, airports, telecommunications, and so on. The funds needed for the improvement of such an infrastructure is huge. This is why we should give more opportunities to the private business sector, and the people, in general, should also contribute toward funding such an infrastructure.

Along with this, we should improve the quality of our officials' professionalism and further stress improved national discipline. Besides, it is important that we waste no time in the future in trying to improve our [word indistinct] quality and further develop available human resources. We truly need to upgrade our national discipline in daily undertakings, which have become more dynamic. Therefore, development and [word indistinct] are among numerous important factors.

We will definitely be facing more socioeconomic problems in the future; for example, our task of trying to overcome the problem of poverty, and equal distribution of wealth. This should be our continuous and spontaneous effort. The result will be achieved sooner or later. Such problems cannot not be solved overnight.

Beloved fellow countrymen! Viewing our current situation and considering the improving global economic situation, we have every reason to be optimistic in facing 1993. Therefore, we should strive harder to fortify our solidarity and further upgrade our efficiency in all our undertakings—whether in government, the business sector, or the people's activities. We should strive effortlessly to improve our self-discipline and national discipline.

May Almighty God provide His perpetual protection and guidance on Indonesia and all Indonesians!

Thank you. May peace be unto you!

Government Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics

BK3112132092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The Indonesian Government today extended its recognition to the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic as the two new states established from a peaceful and constitutional separation of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic effective 1 January 1993. A press release of the Foreign Affairs Department issued in Jakarta today said the recognition was based on the existing cordial relations between the Indonesian Government and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

The recognition will be followed by the establishment of diplomatic relations with the two new states. For the time being, the Indonesian Embassy in Prague will continue to function as the Indonesian mission to both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The recognition of the two new states was contained in a letter written by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to his counterparts in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Laos

Final Results of Election Reported

BK3112125592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Report on final results of the election of members to the Third National Assembly in all 18 constituencies]

[Text] Constituency 1—Vientiane municipality: There were 19 candidates with 11 to be elected members to the Third National Assembly. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 5, Dr. Siho Bannavong, gaining 168,255 votes;
2. Candidate No. 4, Dr. Somphavan Inthavong, gaining 162,112 votes;
3. Candidate No. 19, Dr. Si Boulommavong, gaining 153,510 votes;
4. Candidate No. 9, Colonel Phosai Saipan-gna, gaining 152,789 votes;
5. Candidate No. 2, Singkapo Sikhotchounlamali, gaining 151,441 votes;
6. Candidate No. 3, Colonel Siboun Khounthongbang, gaining 144,005 votes;
7. Candidate No. 1, Mrs. Onchan Thammavong, gaining 142,770 votes;
8. Candidate No. 6, Khampong Soulinphoumi, gaining 140,028 votes;
9. Candidate No. 17, Sisouphan Chanthalangsi, gaining 137,858 votes;
10. Candidate No. 12, Khamsai Soulinthon, gaining 136,145 votes;
11. Candidate No. 16, Bounchai Boutavong, gaining 132,248 votes;
12. Candidate No. 18, Som Visai-gno, gaining 131,430 votes;
13. Candidate No. 10, Houmphom Bouli-gnaphon, gaining 131,272 votes;
14. Candidate No. 13, Bounthong Phommachan, gaining 129,003 votes;
15. Candidate No. 7, Tai Keolouangkhot, gaining 128,363 votes;
16. Candidate No. 15, Boualiphan Temmelat, gaining 124,554 votes;
17. Candidate No. 14, Bounpheng Kai-gnasit, gaining 124,348 votes;
18. Candidate No. 8, Mrs. Sommai Vongnakhon, gaining 113,863 votes; and
19. Candidate No. 11, Songhoua Vangvongsai, gaining 112,889 votes.

In this Constituency 1, there are in total 246,063 eligible voters. Of these, 240,647, representing 97.80 percent of the total voters, turned out to vote. There were 2,743 void ballots, or 1.14 percent of the total. The number of eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 5,416, or 2.20 percent of the total.

Constituency 2—Phong Saly Province: There were six candidates with three elected members to the Third National Assembly. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Venthong Louangvilai, gaining 60,006 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, Khamtan Keo-gnasan, gaining 54,049 votes;
3. Candidate No. 3, Afou Laoli, gaining 38,967 votes;
4. Candidate No. 4, Mrs. Onkeo Nakavong, gaining 21,955 votes;
5. Candidate No. 5, Sak Soulichai, gaining 21,050 votes; and
6. Candidate No. 6, Savang Laoli, gaining 13,333 votes.

In this Constituency 2, there are altogether 70,064 eligible voters. Of these, 69,820, representing 99.65 percent of the total voters, exercised their right to cast votes. There were 33 incorrect ballots, or 0.05 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to turn out to vote was 244, or 0.35 percent of the total.

Constituency 3—Luang Namtha Province: There were five candidates with three elected members to the Third National Assembly. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Khampan Philavong, gaining 39,300 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, Khamkeo Singmisai, gaining 34,043 votes;
3. Candidate No. 3, Inpeng Inthongsai, gaining 33,279 votes;
4. Candidate No. 4, Lieutenant Colonel Bounthong Thoulakham, gaining 31,728 votes; and
5. Candidate No. 5, Nouki Vasayi, gaining 20,626 votes.

In this Constituency 3, there are altogether 53,112 eligible voters. Of these, 53,000, representing 99.79 percent of the total voters, exercised their rights. There were eight incorrect ballots, or 0.2 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to turn out to vote was 112, or 0.21 percent of the total.

Constituency 4—Oudomsai Province: There were six candidates with three to be elected. The results as as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Chaleun Yiapaoheu, gaining 72,449 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, Chansouk Bounpachit, gaining 67,942 votes;
3. Candidate No. 4, Mrs. Keosavang Kittivong, gaining 41,567 votes;
4. Candidate No. 5, Lieutenant Colonel Inta Louangphachit, gaining 34,775 votes;
5. Candidate No. 3, Khamman Thochonglaichi, gaining 32,780 votes; and

6. Candidate 6, Siangphengs Inthavong, gaining 30,996 votes.

In this Constituency 4, there are altogether 93,649 eligible voters. Of these, 93,507, representing 99.85 percent of the total voters, exercised their rights. There were four incorrect ballots, or 0.00 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to turn out to cast votes was 142, or 0.15 percent of the total.

Constituency 5—Bokeo Province: There were four candidates with two to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Bounthong Chitmani, gaining 34,274 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, Lieutenant Colonel Vilai Soupalin, gaining 26,508 votes;
3. Candidate No. 4, Bounthom Vannachonchan, gaining 25,941 votes; and
4. Candidate No. 3, Thongkhamli Chateng, gaining 14,899 votes.

In this Constituency 5, there are altogether 51,230 eligible voters. Of these, 50,839, representing 99.24 percent of the total voters, exercised their rights. There were 28 incorrect ballots, or 0.6 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 391, or 0.71 percent of the total.

Constituency 6—Luang Prabang Province: There were 12 candidates with seven to be elected members of the Third National Assembly. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 5, Ms. Vanthong Phommali, gaining 109,431 votes;
2. Candidate No. 1, Phandouangchit Vongsa, gaining 106,211 votes;
3. Candidate No. 12, Thongsa Pan-gnasit, gaining 101,728 votes;
4. Candidate No. 9, Khamphai Sou-outhai, gaining 93,801 votes;
5. Candidate No. 6, Major Chanthi Souvannachak, gaining 91,411 votes;
6. Candidate No. 2, Boun-gnang Vongphachan, gaining 85,907 votes;
7. Candidate No. 3, Souphanthaheuangsi Sisaleumsak, gaining 85,490 votes;
8. Candidate No. 11, Faida Phengfavangchouasong, gaining 83,576 votes;
9. Candidate No. 8, Khampheng Yengvu, gaining, gaining 80,008 votes;
10. Candidate No. 7, Chanthavong Douangmala, gaining 73,329 votes;
11. Candidate No. 10, Saiphet Khamphasit, gaining 72,400 votes; and
12. Candidate No. 5, Bounthon Sengkhammi, gaining 69,319 votes.

In this constituency 6, there are altogether 151,172 eligible voters. Of these, 150,515, representing 99.57 percent of the total voters, turned out to vote. There were 143 incorrect ballots, or 1.10 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 657, or 0.43 percent of the total.

Constituency 7—Sayaboury Province: There were six candidates with three to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Bounthan Souvannasouk, gaining 84,435 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, Thong Labliya, gaining 59,287 votes;
3. Candidate No. 3, Payoun Latmounti, gaining 59,060 votes;
4. Candidate No. 5, Khamkeo Chanthasak, gaining 30,769 votes;
5. Candidate No. 4, Ms. Sombat Gnot-onkeo, gaining 29,470 votes; and
6. Candidate No. 6, Kongkham Latsavong, gaining 28,657 votes.

In this constituency 7, there are a total of 97,261 eligible voters. Of these, 97,261, representing 100 percent of the total voters, turned out to cast votes. There were 35 incorrect ballots, or 0.4 percent of the total.

Constituency 8—Houa Phan Province: There were seven candidates with four to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Maisouk Saisompheng, gaining 91,436 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, Boun-ngong Sailichan, gaining 74,829 votes;
3. Candidate No. 3, Tongyeutho, gaining 70,134 votes;
4. Candidate No. 4, Bounthan Bounkhoun, gaining 53,100 votes;
5. Candidate No. 5, Ms. Somphon Lovankeo, gaining 44,599 votes;
6. Candidate No. 6, Bouason Thammali, 34,746 votes; and
7. Candidate No. 7, Vansai Bounmisai, gaining 32,316 votes.

In this constituency, there are a total of 100,572 eligible voters. Of these, 100,376, representing 99.81 percent of the total voters, turned out to vote. There were 86 incorrect ballots, or 0.9 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 196, or 0.19 percent of the total.

Constituency 9—Xieng Khouang Province: There were six candidates with three to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, [Brigadier General] Saisompheng Souli- gnavong, gaining 64,715 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, La Singdala, gaining 47,265 votes;
3. Candidate No. 3, Vatouya or Sivon, gaining 47,149 votes;
4. Candidate No. 4, Ms. Maivong Thepthilat, gaining 36,108 votes;
5. Candidate No. 5, Phonsamai Vongphachan, gaining 22,910 votes; and
6. Candidate No. 6, Khampheng Thongthimahasai, gaining 22,132 votes.

In this Constituency 9, there are a total of 83,109 eligible voters. Of these, 80,157, presenting 96.45 percent of the total voters, exercised their rights. There were 64 incorrect ballots, or 0.08 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 2,952, or 3.55 percent of the total.

Constituency 10—Vientiane Province: There were 11 candidates with six to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 2, Khambeng Sinnavong, gaining 84,995 votes;
2. Candidate No. 11, Simmali Phanthamalai, gaining 82,552 votes;
3. Candidate No. 9, Loumkham Vongsai, gaining 81,285 votes;
4. Candidate No. 4, Khammi Sai-gnavong, gaining 79,112 votes;
5. Candidate No. 7, Ms. Vongkham Southammavong, gaining 77,769 votes;
6. Candidate No. 1, Vongphet Saikeu-yachongtoua, gaining 77,350 votes;
7. Candidate No. 5, Phetsakhon Louang-aphai, gaining 77,295 votes;
8. Candidate No. 8, Somkham Phommachan, gaining 72,320 votes;
9. Candidate No. 10, Gnouat Phanthavong, gaining 67,744 votes;
10. Candidate No. 6, Donsi Payiavu, gaining 67,536 votes; and
11. Candidate No. 3, Ms. Bouavon, gaining 67,248 votes.

In this Constituency 10, there are a total of 139,795 eligible voters. Of these, 139,390, representing 99.77 percent of the total voters, turned out to vote. There were 189 incorrect ballots, or 0.14 percent of the total. The number of eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 405, or 0.29 percent of the total.

Constituency 11—Bolikhamsai Province: There were six candidates with three to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Bouasi Lovansai, gaining 61,658 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, Bounhong Khounphasai, gaining 51,661 votes;
3. Candidate No. 4, Ms. Konsi Inthaseng, gaining 33,323 votes;
4. Candidate No. 3, Cheuiyang Naoluchobngteng, gaining 26,852 votes;
5. Candidate No. 6, Khamphan Sitthidampha, gaining 24,251 votes; and
6. Candidate No. 5, Bounma Bounchaleun, gaining 24,210 votes.

In this Constituency 11, there are a total of 74,095 eligible voters. Of these, 74,020, representing 99.90 percent of the total voters, turned out to vote. There were 35 incorrect ballots, or 0.05 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 75, or 0.7 percent of the total.

Constituency 12—Khammouane Province: There were nine candidates with five to be elected members of the third National Assembly. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 3, Saman Souvannasao, gaining 86,416 votes;
2. Candidate No. 2, Khen Phalivong, gaining 84,145 votes;
3. Candidate No. 1, Nouphat Chounlamani, gaining 76,236 votes;
4. Candidate No. 4, Ms. Sima Phongsavat, gaining 76,106 votes;
5. Candidate No. 5, Visai Sengdouangdi, gaining 65,516 votes;
6. Candidate No. 6, Siphon Saliboun, gaining 60,925 votes;
7. Candidate No. 7, Saikham Phouangvilai, gaining 56,418 votes;
8. Candidate No. 8, Khambai Damlat, gaining 48,919 votes; and
9. Candidate No. 9, Bounthong, gaining 47,064 votes.

In this Constituency 12, there are a total of 121,606 eligible voters. Of these, 120,549, representing 99.13 percent of the total voters, turned out to exercise their rights. There were 200 incorrect ballots, or 0.17 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 1,057, or 0.87 percent of the total.

Constituency 13—Savannakhet Province: There were 19 candidates with 13 to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 3, Prof. Dr. Souli Nanthavong, gaining 243,582 votes;
2. Candidate No. 1, Khamphong Phanvongsa, gaining 243,402 votes;
3. Candidate No. 4, Prof. Phou Latsaphon, gaining 223,807 votes;
4. Candidate No. 5, Viset Savengsouksa, gaining 213,773 votes;
5. Candidate No. 11, Ms. Phouthon Phetsalat, gaining 211,854 votes;
6. Candidate No. 2, Khammeng Sisoulat, gaining 209,613 votes;
7. Candidate No. 16, Somboun Sonthikoumman, gaining 207,989 votes;
8. Candidate No. 9, Sing Sai-gnabouasi, gaining 206,947 votes;
9. Candidate No. 7, Keyoun Gnot-saiviboun, gaining 203,752 votes;
10. Candidate No. 6, Bounkeut Kethongsa, gaining 199,755 votes;
11. Candidate No. 8, Sounthon Phaphithak, gaining 197,445 votes;
12. Candidate No. 12, Bountoum Detvongsa, gaining 194,010 votes;
13. Candidate No. 13, Major Kaysone Khounlatsouvannavong, gaining 189,632 votes;
14. Candidate No. 18, Thounthala Thepphaiphon, gaining 186,879 votes;

15. Candidate No. 17, Dammala Liapsidabout, gaining 185,249 votes;
16. Candidate No. 14, Khonsavan Khounnalat, gaining 185,073 votes;
17. Candidate No. 10, Phanthoulat Amalathithada, gaining 177,633 votes;
18. Candidate No. 19, Vongsavan Khoumphonphakdi, gaining 176,408 votes; and
19. Candidate No. 15, Choummi Taikhitthisai, gaining 164,417 votes.

In this Constituency 13, there are a total of 295,640 eligible voters. Of these, 294,861, representing 99.74 percent of the total voters exercised their rights. There were 921 incorrect ballots, or 0.31 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 779, or 0.26 percent of the total.

Constituency 14—Saravane Province: There were eight candidates with four to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 2, Phosai Sihachak, gaining 87,035 votes;
2. Candidate No. 4, Khamsen Meuangmani, gaining 86,911 votes;
3. Candidate No. 1, Paseut Sisanon, gaining 85,851 votes;
4. Candidate No. 3, Khankham Vongsai, gaining 60,181 votes;
5. Candidate No. 6, Ms. Boualit Chounthavong, gaining 45,499 votes;
6. Candidate No. 5, Viangthong Inthaseng, gaining 35,183 votes;
7. Candidate No. 7, Thonglian Khanvonghan, gaining 34,609 votes; and;
8. candidate No. 8, Tianthong, gaining 31,647 votes.

In this Constituency 14, there are a total of 117,069 eligible voters. Of these, 116,826, representing 99.79 percent of the total voters. There were 97 incorrect ballots, or 0.8 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to turn out to vote was 243, or 0.21 percent of the total.

Constituency 15—Champassak Province: There were 17 candidates with nine to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Saman Vi-gnaket, gaining 192,355 votes;
2. Candidate No. 3, Dr. Dr. Khamliang Phonsena, gaining 176,054 votes;
3. Candidate No. 8, Sisouk Siusombat, gaining 171,885 votes;
4. Candidate No. 6, Bounlat Veuaivanitsavong, gaining 170,225 votes;
5. Candidate No. 2, Boualai Sisomvang, gaining 169,095 votes;
6. Candidate No. 5, Noubeng Chanthasak, gaining 139,609 votes;
7. Candidate No. 4, Chankham Thammavong, gaining 139,450 votes;
8. Candidate No. 7, Mani Heuangvongsa, gaining 112,782 votes;
9. Candidate No. 9, Somphon Kha-gnong-ek, gaining 111,454 votes;
10. Candidate No. 15, Ms. Thongsa Thipphavong, gaining 100,398 votes;
11. Candidate No. 10, Bounthiam Thongkeo, gaining 87,017 votes;
12. Candidate No. 16, Lieutenant Colonel Bountong Phommathep, gaining 84,496 votes;
13. Candidate No. 12, Khamhang Sihavong, gaining 75,388 votes;
14. Candidate No. 13, Savai Nakhavit, gaining 73,531 votes;
15. Candidate No. 14, Oudon Khonsavan, gaining 67,327 votes;
16. Candidate No. 11, Bounthan Patsaphan, gaining 66,805 votes; and
17. Candidate No. 17, Bounpheum Phetphoumi, gaining 52,965 votes.

In this Constituency 15, there are a total of 223,966 eligible voters. Of these, 222,175, representing 99.20 percent of the total voters. There were 917 incorrect ballots, or 0.44 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters who failed to exercise their rights was 1,791, or 0.80 percent of the total.

Constituency 16—Sekong Province: There were four candidates with two to be elected members of the third National Assembly. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Khambou Sounisai, gaining 24,086 votes;
2. Candidate No. 3, Ms. Bounpheng Boualapha, gaining 17,456 votes;
3. Candidate No. 2, Khamphong Phonchaleun, gaining 10,207 votes; and
4. Candidate No. 4, Khamko Don-alai, gaining 7,955 votes.

In this Constituency 16, there are a total of 30,172 eligible voters. Of these, 29,868, representing 98.99 percent of the total voters. There were 16 void ballots, or 0.5 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters who failed to exercise their rights was 304, or 1.1 percent of the total.

Constituency 17—Attopeu Province: There were four candidates with two to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, Savai Saisena, gaining 31,502 votes;
2. Candidate No. 3, Sithat Inthivong, gaining 19,779 votes;
3. Candidate No. 2, Khamsian Sisoulat, gaining 18,219 votes; and
4. Candidate No. 4, Bounsai Khammanivong, gaining 12,236 votes.

In this Constituency 17, there are a total of 41,084 eligible voters. Of these, 40,882, representing 99.51 percent of the total voters. There were 14 incorrect ballots, or 0.03 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to turn out to vote was 202, or 0.49 percent of the total.

Constituency 18—Sianghon-Hongsa special zone: There were five candidates with two to be elected. The results are as follows:

1. Candidate No. 1, [Colonel] Kensi Manivong, gaining 25,470 votes;

2. Candidate No. 2, Sombat Yialiheu, gaining 24,090 votes;

3. Candidate No. 5, Bounthiam Simeuang, gaining 8,590 votes;

4. Candidate No. 3, Phom Mingbouppha, gaining 8,286 votes; and

5. Candidate No. 4, Kham-oun, gaining 3,611 votes.

In this Constituency 18, there are altogether 35,097 eligible voters. Of these, 35,034, representing 99.82 percent of the total voters, turned out to exercise their rights. There were eight incorrect ballots, or 0.2 percent of the total. The number of the eligible voters failing to exercise their rights was 63, or 0.18 percent of the total.

Philippines

NDF Assails NUC on Talks Decision

HK0101132193 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] has assailed the National Unification Commission [NUC] for its decision to cease peace negotiations with its leaders based in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Father Frank Fernandez, NDF secretary general, said the NUC's decision invalidates the joint declaration signed in The Hague by both government and NDF representatives and accused the government of ignoring the party's leaders after the initial exploratory talks.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The NUC's first statement of the year announcing that it will cease all negotiations with NDF leaders in Utrecht, the Netherlands is a big mistake. The statement simply nullifies the achievements of both government and NDF representatives, particularly the Hague joint declaration of September 1992. [end recording]

Fernandez also stressed that the NDF will continue its revolutionary efforts until it achieves complete success. He said the NDF remains strong and united, despite the current squabbles in the Communist movement.

[Begin Fernandez recording] The NDF continues to remain united in its aim to continue with the revolution until we triumph. [end recording]

Ramos Insists on Peace Talks in Country

HK0401053293 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 3 Jan 93 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] President Ramos yesterday insisted that peace talks with the National Democratic Front [NDF] should be held in the country, dampening hopes for an early settlement of the 24-year communist insurgency. The NDF wants a foreign venue for the formal negotiations.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, meanwhile, pushed for a ceasefire between the government and the communist rebels even as he called on both sides to come to the negotiating table.

In an interview with radio station DZRH, the President said the communist insurgency is an internal problem that must be resolved within the country. "Let us discuss this now at home dahil sa ito any problema ng Pilipinas. Huwag na nating ikalat pa at ibunyag ito sa ibang lugar o bansa. Kaya nating pag-usapan ito sa ating inang bayan [Because this a Philippine Problem. Let us keep this to ourselves and not expose it in other countries. We can talk this over in our homeland]," he said.

Mr. Ramos, however, said the National Unification Commission [NUC] and the NDF continue to consult with each other on how to proceed with the formal peace talks. "One thing is certain, the contacts (between the NUC and the NDF) continue," he said. The President said he was confident that the peace process would succeed, noting that "we'll pursue it without letup."

He has given the NUC up to March 16 to conduct dialogs and negotiations with communist, rightist and Muslim insurgents. He said resolving the insurgency problem would pave the way for economic progress. [passage omitted]

In September, the government and the NDF held exploratory talks in the Netherlands and agreed to hold formal peace negotiations. The venue of the talks, however, remain a stumbling block in the peace process. "That is still our position," the President said of the government's insistence on a local venue for the talks.

The NDF, aside from insisting on a foreign venue, also wants an international observer to be present during the negotiations. The NUC has hinted that the government might resort to negotiating with local leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, who is also a member of the NUC, said "if we cannot talk abroad, then perhaps we can settle that problem in the country and leave these people (CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] founder Jose Ma. Sison and other Utrecht-based NDF leaders) abroad by themselves." Government representatives have been holding talks with the Moro National Liberation Front abroad. But a top Palace official said there was nothing wrong with this because "they're still exploratory."

Freed Rebels Involved in Army Management

HK0401083093 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Jan 93 pp 1, 7

[Report by Aris Ilagan]

[Text] Leaders of the ultra-rightist groups, who were already released from detention and placed under the custody of the Philippine Army [PA] in the government's unification efforts, are now actively involved in the development of the command's management system.

The participation of the leaders of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan-Kawal ng Sambayanang Pilipino [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People]-Young Officers Union (RAM-KSP-YOU), particularly the junior officers, in the management of the PA gave the rebel officers a renewed hope in pursuing a military career despite their alleged involvement in the series of coup attempts, military analysts said.

Lt. Gen. Arturo Enrile, Army chief, said many RAM-KSP-YOU leaders under his custody are now helping the command in improving its personnel, logistics, and training systems.

Since the government's reconciliation program with the rebel officers started during the term of then President Aquino, it was only last month when the RAM-KSP-YOU members were given assignments and important tasks in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] major service commands.

Although they have been released and were already reassigned to some AFP units, most of them were not given assignments or even simple paper work during the past administration.

Enrile, who reportedly gained the trust and confidence of the RAM-KSP-YOU for being the only commanding general who recommended their release, has remained optimistic of a brighter future for the rebel officers despite the troubles of being linked in coup attempts.

Many of the rebel officers detained were graduates of the West Point Military Academy and Annapolis Naval Academy in the United States and the Philippine Military Academy.

Enrile said he is maintaining a "personal touch" on the RAM-KSP-YOU personnel under his custody by holding regular dialogues with them and keeping an update on their daily activities that are bound by the military rules and regulations.

Among the key rebel officers placed under his custody were Lt. Col. Alexander Noble, Lt. Col. Rafael Galvez, Lt. Col. Jake Malajacan, Lt. Col. Victor Erfe, Maj. Abraham Puruganan, and Capt. Danilo Lim.

Reynaldo Cabauatan, a dismissed Constabulary lieutenant colonel who was sentenced to 20 years in jail for his involvement in coup attempts, was also placed under Enrile's custody.

Ramos Orders Complete Revamp of Napocor

HK0401075693 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 3 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Marichu A. Villanueva]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday ordered Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Delfin Lazaro to institute a top-to-bottom revamp of the National Power Corporation [Napocor], a move Mr. Ramos admitted was prompted by the recent discovery that the state-owned firm has lost about P268-million [Philippine pesos] worth of diesel oil from pilferage during the last two years.

Mr. Ramos said that his administration's efforts to solve the energy crisis were being negated "by certain unscrupulous Napocor officials" such as those involved in siphoning off a large portion of diesel oil from Napocor's thermal plant in Pililia, Rizal.

National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] Director Epimaco Velasco reported to the president on Thursday that NBI agents had busted the syndicate involved in the pilferage with the arrest of 12 suspects who include Napocor personnel.

"I'm sure there was connivance or collusion of certain high-ranking Napocor officials," the president pointed out.

Mr. Ramos yesterday said he has asked Lazaro, appointed DOE secretary last month, to look into Napocor's management to identify areas of gross inefficiency and have them corrected.

Analysts had suggested that the oil pilferage was not merely a matter of thievery within the Napocor but was made possible by the gross failure of the firm's management to detect the discrepancy in its fuel inventory.

The President on Thursday also ordered the NBI to look into the involvement of other persons, including high-ranking Napocor officials, in the pilferage.

As DOE secretary, Lazaro exercises control over Napocor.

As this developed, the President disclosed that a local consortium has won the re-bidding for the construction of the 200-megawatt [MW] power plant in La Union, one of the six fast-track power projects of Napocor lined up for completion this September.

The contract for the La Union plant was originally won by the ESI of Canada which however, "defaulted" for failing to meet Napocor requirements.

The President said he approved the re-bidding of the project last December which was won by a local consortium which he failed to identify.

"This shows the awakening of the private sector to opportunities available in the power projects," the President said.

The president said the fast-track power projects were being undertaken by his administration to finally end this year the power-shortage crisis in the country.

The President yesterday disclosed he will make an inspection visit on Jan. 16 on the site of a 100-MW power plant, one of six fast-track power projects being constructed by Enron in barangay Pinamakuan in Batangas City.

This power plant is scheduled for completion by April 1993.

Likewise, the president expressed optimism that the power outlook for this year looks brighter with the putting on stream of the 200-MW power plant in Subic Naval base.

Thailand

Regime Under Pressure To Review U.S. Treaty

BK0401033493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Jan 93 p B8

[Text] Thailand is under severe pressure from several countries to review the Thai-U.S. Treaty of Amity and Economic Cooperation which provides job privileges for U.S. citizens over other expatriates working in Thailand.

A source from the Commerce Ministry said that the European Community, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and South Korea have asked Thailand to review the Thai-U.S. Treaty of Amity during the talks on Dec 14-23.

They claimed that the treaty discriminated against their citizens because it allows U.S. citizens to do some types of business in Thailand which are not open to others.

Thai officials met with the officials from European Community, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, South Korea, Japan, Australia and the United States in Geneva last month for bilateral talks with each country on the service sector.

The Thai-US Treaty of Amity 1966 grants the US citizens the right to do business in the same way as Thais. Thai citizens receive similar privileges when doing business in the U.S.

The source said that Thai officials informed their trading partners that Thailand was considering whether to review the Treaty.

The official added that Thai officials also asked the delegates from the EC, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Japan to grant the same rights for some occupations held by Thai citizens. The vocations Thailand is interested in pursuing are doctors and nurses, foremen, accountants and interior designers.

Paper Applauds Signing of START II Treaty

BK0401034693 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Treaty Good for All Mankind"]

[Text] Presidents Bush and Yeltsin yesterday signed one of the most important disarmament deals in history. The so-called START II—Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty—aims at reducing American and Russian stocks of nuclear weapons by two-thirds. Specifically, the two largest holders of these terrible weapons will be destroying strategic nuclear arms. These are the biggest and most powerful of all such weapons. For decades, their mere existence threatened to incinerate the world in case of a superpower conflict. Getting rid of one of them is an achievement. Cutting them by the hundreds makes the treaty, in the belief of President Yeltsin of Russia, "the document of the century."

Much work remains to be done to achieve the aims of START II. Unfortunately, one cannot merely discard a Soviet SS-18 missile, or a US Titan, by dropping it in a nearby garbage dump. Destruction of such arms is technical and very costly. It also is time-consuming. Russian economists have long warned that destroying their nuclear arms could bankrupt the country. The West, particularly the United States, has chipped in several hundred millions of dollars to the wrecking fund. More will be needed, and clearly it must be forthcoming.

START II is important by itself. Since the fall of the Soviet Union and end of the Cold War, many of the richest and most heavily armed countries have come to realise the importance of quick disarmament. One of the main reasons is the relative insecurity of politics in many of the formerly communist nations. Conservatives in Russia, for example, have criticised START II. They argue that retaining huge nuclear stockpiles is somehow necessary to prove the importance of Russia in today's world. This type of thinking can only help revive the unlamented days of the Cold War.

But the importance of START II goes beyond the mere details hammered out by US Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and his Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. It is also meaningful because it increases the conviction of many that nuclear disarmament is important to the future of all of us. President Bush called START II a "treaty good for all mankind." Mr Bush, his successor President-elect Bill Clinton, and Mr Yeltsin all agree that preventing the spread of nuclear weapons is as important as wiping out most of those which already exist.

Officially, nine nations today own nuclear weapons. Half a dozen others almost certainly have such arms at the ready, or could manufacture them in short order. Still others, among them some of the world's most brutal and secretive regimes, are working to obtain and stock nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them. START II provides a further impetus to civilised nations to work together to bar nuclear arms among themselves, and to deny them to renegade countries, even by force if necessary.

Russia, in recent day, has tightened controls on exports of materials and equipment with possible nuclear uses. Last month, Russian security forces stormed an airliner and removed 36 nuclear experts allegedly hired by North Korea. Japan has introduced new laws to prevent export of so-called "dual-use" technology to countries suspected of subverting the spirit of nuclear propagation. The past year has seen several reluctant countries join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). These included nuclear powers France and China.

In India, where there is great opposition to the NPT, the retired head of the Indian Army has urged a new and clear policy upon his government. Gen Krishnaswami Sundarji says that one of his country's greatest scandals is lack of a nuclear policy, at a time when the new President Clinton will be urging New Delhi to adhere to international agreements such as NPT. "The really big secret is that India has no coherent nuclear weapon policy option... Very few among the public or officialdom would believe that such a preposterous situation could exist," said the general.

Such thoughtful moves, climaxed by the Bush-Yeltsin START II agreement, aim at helping to make the world a more peaceful place. The cost of dismantling nuclear arms may be high. But compared to the use of even one such weapon, it is trivial. Responsible nations with nuclear arms now should begin to consider their own options for the reduction of these weapons. They also should begin talks aimed at agreement on dealing with removal of development programmes in would-be nuclear power. START II is the greatest move in history towards world disarmament. It should not be the last.

Only Premier, Minister To Speak on Cambodia

BK0101011893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Jan 93 pp A1, A2

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai by THE NATION senior editors Suthichai Yun and Thepchai Yong on 29 January at Government House in Bangkok]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has pledged not to allow corruption to be used as a pretext for a coup d'etat against his administration and threatened to "put before the firing squad" anyone trying to overthrow democracy. [passage omitted]

"My government will not allow corruption to become a condition for a coup as in the past," he said.

Chuan said that without such an excuse, a further military seizure of power could not be justified. "If anyone tries to stage a coup in the absence of such a situation, he would be put before the firing squad if he fails," Chuan said.

But the premier said he was not afraid of a coup d'etat because he believes the present military leadership understands the values of democracy. [passage omitted]

The prime minister cited as a positive sign the Defence Ministry's compliance with his request that its secret funds be open to closer scrutiny by members of the House committee studying the Budget Bill for 1993 which was passed in its first House reading two weeks ago.

"We are seeing for the first time that the size of the secret fund has been scaled down," Chuan said.

The secret fund, set at over Bt [baht] 90 million for the 1993 fiscal year, has often been the subject of intense debate. Politicians had complained they were not allowed to scrutinize the allocation closely enough. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the recent bomb blast at a city bus terminal in Phasi Charoen District in which five people were killed, Chuan said it was possible the incident was aimed at either discrediting his government as a whole or certain Cabinet members. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said if the role of senators is restricted to screening legislation he would not mind them being appointed.

"But the procedure must be changed so that the prime minister does not have the prerogative in appointing senators," he said.

Chuan said he intends to have a hands-on policy on foreign affairs and wants to turn Thailand into what has been described as "the centre of gravity" for the region.

The premier admitted that Thailand's image was hurt by conflicting statements by government officials on how the country saw the UN Security Council's decision to impose economic sanctions on the Khmer Rouge.

"From now on, only myself and Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri will be speaking on this issue so that there will be no more confusion," he said.

Chuan reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to supporting the UN resolution against the Khmer Rouge.

General Discusses Logging Ban, Border Trade

BK0101021893 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] Aranyaprathet—Thailand will try to minimise the losses of its timber merchants through a new round of talks with Cambodian authorities later this month, a senior military officer said yesterday.

Plans call for Foreign Ministry officials to hold negotiations with the Supreme National Council (SNC) in Cambodia, Major-General Niphon Parunphit, Commander of the Burapha Task Force, told reporters.

Maj-Gen Niphon made the disclosure while affirming that Thailand would close a total of 27 temporary checkpoints along the Thai-Cambodian border from midnight last night.

No logs will be allowed into the country after this deadline but cross-border passage will be permissible for workers and machinery, he said.

The Cabinet on December 22 decided to seal off the checkpoints in order to help enforce the United Nations-endorsed ban on log exports from Cambodia.

The Cabinet decision came exactly two months after the SNC called for a moratorium on the export of logs from Cambodia. Cambodian Head of State Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in his capacity as chairman of the SNC, pushed for the September 22 ruling on environmental grounds.

Khmer Rouge objections to the ban were overruled. As part of an attempt to make the radical Cambodian party comply with the Paris peace agreement, the UN Security Council on November 30 endorsed the SNC ban.

Maj-Gen Niphon said a recent meeting concluded that Thailand as a member of the UN had to seal off the border checkpoint first.

But it was also agreed that the Foreign Ministry should subsequently make a renewed negotiated attempt to help the traders.

The strategy was drawn up at a meeting of officials from the Interior and Foreign Ministries and representatives of the National Security Council.

The SNC ruling made clear that Cambodia's borders with Laos and Vietnam as well as with Thailand would be monitored to enforce the ban.

But Maj-Gen Niphon noted that authorities would have to allow the cross-border movement of sawn timber as the SNC decision did not prohibit the export of logs that have been processed.

Reports from Phnom Penh indicate that a large number of sawmills have been set up in Cambodia to exploit this loophole in the ban.

Meanwhile, Maj-Gen Niphon pointed out that border trading—predominantly in consumer goods—would be able to continue at temporary checkpoints that have been authorised for this purpose.

He cited Klong Luek and Ban Hat Lek, located in Aranyaprathet District of Prachin Buri and Klong Yai District of Trat respectively. Klong Luek is adjacent to Cambodia's Poipet. Ban Hat Lek is situated opposite the Cambodian town of Koh Kong.

Asked when the Thai-Cambodian border could be reopened on a permanent basis, Maj-Gen Niphon said he believed such an event could be negotiated after a full-fledged government is in place in Cambodia.

This would be after the holding of general elections, which are expected to take place by May at the latest.

Military 'Overreacting' to Border Closure

BK0301015093 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 3 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Traders have accused Thai border officials of "overreacting" in enforcing the Interior Ministry order to temporarily close 27 border passes with Cambodia in observance of the United Nations sanctions against the Khmer Rouge which took effect on Thursday.

Informed sources in Prachin Buri said yesterday the announcement clearly states that only the import of logs from Cambodia are banned but officials manning the passes who include members of the military, customs and police, have gone too far and slapped a ban on all kinds of goods from Cambodia, including sawn timber, gems and agricultural products.

They said the sale of oil, mainly for logging operations in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas, has also been banned as of January 1 even though the United Nations has yet to set a date for an oil embargo against the Khmer Rouge.

Several border officials in Aranyaprathet admitted yesterday they had not yet seen the order from the Interior Ministry, but were only told to make sure that the border passes were sealed off by January 1.

They said they simply followed the order and banned all kinds of goods originating in Cambodia from getting into the country.

Trading sources said logging firms would petition the Government to ease the ban by allowing sawn timber and gems to go through, noting that the Supreme National Council of Cambodia only imposed a moratorium on the export of logs, not sawn timber or other processed wood products.

The sources claimed that the strict action taken by the Thai side would only benefit Japanese and Taiwanese loggers because there will be a huge leftover of uncut logs which cannot be transported into Thailand because of the ban.

They said the Japanese have ten saw mills in Kampong Som, one in Pursat and two in Phnom Penh whereas the Taiwanese have a floating sawmill in Kampong Som.

All sawn timber is shipped to other countries from the port in Kampong Som.

"It is unfair to accuse Thailand of plundering the natural resources of Cambodia. Other countries such as Japan and Taiwan, should also take the blame," said a logging tycoon who declined to be named.

Miners and employees working with Thai logging firms in Cambodia who have returned to Thailand in the past few days will rally in front of Trat provincial hall tomorrow to air their grievances and especially the tough line adopted by Thai border officials.

Mr Samroeng Chancharoen, who has invested in gem-mining, said yesterday miners have been forced to return to Thailand along with their heavy equipment because they could not continue their operations due to scarcity of oil since Friday when the sanctions came into effect.

He said he and his colleagues plan to propose that the Government opens for mining a gem-rich stretch of land extending about 1-2 kilometres near the Cambodian border.

This would help ease the impact of the sanctions, he said.

The border closure also worries Thai security officials who have predicted a boom in black market activities and a possible rise in robbery and banditry against Thai border villagers by Cambodian bandits or the Khmer Rouge.

Hundreds of Logs Imported Despite Embargo

BK0301052293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0503 GMT 3 Jan 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Choam Khsan Border Checkpoint, Cambodia, Jan 3 (AFP)—Hundreds of tropical hardwood logs poured over this Cambodian border post into Thailand at the weekend as Thai loggers flagrantly violated a U.N. Security Council-endorsed ban on log exports.

Over the protests of U.N. peacekeepers trying to halt the traffic, 140 trucks loaded with about five logs each—some as big around as beach umbrellas passed the mountain checkpoint on Friday and Saturday morning alone, according to the pile of transit documents seen here.

A half dozen more trucks were lined up awaiting paperwork clearance.

"This is illegal logging. It must stop," U.N. military observer Major Paul Wenck of Britain told the Cambodian official from the Phnom Penh government agriculture ministry who was taking log tallies and stamping his approval at a wooden booth.

"We'll stop when all the trucks from here are finished," the official, Suon Sovann, replied.

Up to 5,000 already cut raw logs were stacked up in tree graveyards along a dusty scratch of a road awaiting transport aboard the trucks marked BLP Import-Export Ltd., a Thai logging company with what used to be a legal concession here in northern Preah Vihear province before the contract expired December 31.

Suon Sovann said he did not know about the ban, and would permit the crossing of logs until told to do otherwise by his bosses.

Ironically, Wenck said, it appeared the massive log trafficking had begun the day the ban went into effect. BLP had been busy carving a suitable logging road into the mountain which was not ready until the end of the year, he said.

The United Nations has no power to enforce the ban, only to advise the Cambodian authorities to do it—a policy diplomats have likened to having the fox guard the henhouse.

Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) voted a ban on raw log exports in September over the objections of the Khmer Rouge, and the U.N. Security Council endorsed it in November as a political measure against the radical faction while at the same time imposing an oil embargo.

The ban covers only raw, uncut logs, and as a result thousands of new sawmills have sprung up all over Cambodia, just slicing crude planks before export, U.N. officials say.

No ceiling on sawn timber has yet been determined.

Thai politicians have proclaimed an official closing of the border, but the Thai military which controls it is thought to have relatively independent control.

With the Thai press trumpeting losses of 100 million dollars for logging companies who were ceasing their activities, Thai Foreign Ministry officials said they would negotiate with the SNC to extend the ban long enough to clear already felled logs from Cambodian soil.

Since the ban was passed, however, loggers have engaged in a frenzy of tree chopping in anticipation of an extension. Tens of thousands of logs are piled at Cambodia's borders awaiting transport.

BLP is one of 27 companies listed by Thai authorities as being affected by the ban. A representative at its office in Ubon Rachatani province in Thailancould not immediately be reached Sunday.

"This is terribly sad," Wenck said as he looked out at the BLP tree graveyard. "Terribly sad.

Action Urged Against KR, Illegal Loggers

BK0401023293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Jan 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Take Action Against Thai Loggers Who Violate UN Ban"]

[Text] On New Year's day, Thai troops manned checkpoints on the border with Khmer Rouge [KR]-held Cambodia to shut down trade in line with UN Security Council resolutions imposed on the Maoist guerrillas, after they reneged on the Paris Peace Agreement to end a civil war which had raged in the country for 12 years.

The UN sanctions require restrictions on Thailand's trade along the 680-kilometre border with Cambodia. Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) voted the ban on raw log exports in September over the objections of the Khmer Rouge, and the UN Security Council endorsed it in November as a political measure against the radical faction while at the same time imposing an oil embargo.

Prevent Forest Depletion

The log export ban was imposed by the SNC to prevent forest depletion, but if successful it would strip the Khmer Rouge of the huge fees it charges Thais for logging concessions in Khmer Rouge territory near the Thai border. However, the ban covers only raw, uncut logs and as a result thousands of new sawmills have sprung up all over Cambodia, just slicing crude planks before export. Thai loggers have complained that strict enforcement of the ban on log exports will only benefit Japanese and Taiwanese loggers who they claim have sawmills in Kompong Som, Pursat and Phnom Penh.

Barely two days after the supposed closure of 27 border passes with Cambodia, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE report filed yesterday from Choam Khsan border checkpoint, stated that hundreds of tropical hardwood logs poured over from the checkpoint into Thailand at the weekend. It was clear that Thai loggers had flagrantly violated the UN Security Council-endorsed ban, using the argument of free enterprise and market competition as an excuse.

The AFP report mentioned the culprit as BLP Import-Export Ltd, a Thai logging company having a legal concession to cut trees in Cambodia's northern Preah Vihear Province and whose contract expired on Dec 31. It now remains to be seen whether the Thai authorities will take action against this company for violating the UN sanction. The trite excuse that Bangkok has no control over the private sector will not work this time, especially when Thailand's international reputation with regard to the Cambodian peace process is already tarnished.

In the international community, Thailand has been accused of encouraging dubious activities in Cambodia which are more comparable with the pillage of the resources of a neighbouring country and engaging in business contracts with Cambodian factions who not only go back on their commitments made in the Paris Peace Agreement but are also the authors of crimes against humanity. Taking action against Thai companies who violate the UN sanctions will prove to the world that we are serious in fulfilling our obligations on the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreement, and that we intend to honour the letter and spirit of the instruments of international law which we have signed.

Because of the restrictive mandate for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the UN peacekeepers have no power to enforce the ban on log exports, but can only advise Cambodian authorities to prevent trucks laden with timber from leaving the country.

More than a year after the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement, the Khmer Rouge still remains the single largest obstacle to Cambodian peace. The Maoist guerrillas have detained UN peacekeepers, launched mortar attacks on the peacekeepers, fired on UNTAC helicopters and refused to allow the peacekeepers unrestricted access to zones they control. UNTAC is now directly targeted by the Khmer Rouge because the guerrillas believe that the UN is manipulated by the State of Cambodia (the Phnom Penh faction) and hence "services Vietnamese puppets."

The UN on the other hand still believes that the door for the Khmer Rouge should be kept open and that UN sanctions should be aimed at bringing the faction back into the peace process. As UNTAC was engaging in this wishful thinking, Khmer Rouge guerrillas sneaked into a fishing village in central Cambodia and massacred 14 Vietnamese men, women, and children—only three days before the deadline for the closure of the Thai border.

Leaflets were then scattered around the village demanding that UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi rid the country of ethnic Vietnamese.

Whether the United Nations accepts it or not, the Paris Peace Agreement is an undeniable failure. But it is impossible to start again from scratch, to recreate the situation which existed before the signing of the Paris accords.

Isolate the Khmer Rouge

As long as the Khmer Rouge refuse to participate in the real peace process, they must be isolated. This means setting up a tight sanitary cordon around territory they control, including Khmer Rouge-controlled areas adjacent Thailand, and neutralizing little groups dispersed over the rest of the country.

The present peace agreement should be modified to create conditions for economic and social stabilization before the elections are held in the 80 plus per cent of Cambodia not controlled by the Khmer Rouge. This is possible only by setting up a Cambodian authority endowed with real executive powers, assisted by UNTAC, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and other Cambodian personalties recognized for their competence and integrity, with the exclusion of the Khmer Rouge. The creation and composition of this authority must be the subject of a UN Security Council resolution.

Army Chief Denies Support for Log Smuggling

BK0401145593 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1215 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Army Commander in Chief General Wimon Wongwanit denied a newspaper report, with a picture, implying that the Thai military supported log smuggling from Cambodia into Thailand. Gen. Wimon said the picture was taken inside Cambodia before the truck reached a checkpoint in Thailand. After 1 January, all trucks must off-load the logs before entering Thailand.

[Begin Wimon recording in progress] ... still inside the Cambodian border. Please understand what is in this picture. Otherwise, it could lead the Thai people to think that the government said one thing while the Armed Forces did another. It was not so. We are strictly complying with the government's policy. [end recording]

Army Fears Cambodian Fighting Crossing Border

BK0301021093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Jan 93 p A1

[Excerpt] The Thai army fears that the new outbreak of fighting between the Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Phnom Penh troops could spill over the Thai border and spark a fresh exodus of Cambodian refugees into Thailand, senior army officials said over the weekend.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the army is working out a contingency plan for members of a Thai army engineering unit in Cambodia to be evacuated and on possible escape routes for UN peace-keeping forces in the event the violence escalates.

The officials also expressed apprehension that the resumption of hostilities could disrupt the general election tentatively scheduled for May by the United Nations.

Thai authorities and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plan to repatriate the remaining 100,000 Cambodian refugees left on the Thai border in time for the March deadline for the registration of voters.

The renewed fighting might threaten the repatriation process and even reverse the situation by sending Cambodians fleeing as refugees again, they said.

The officials raised their concerns as the UN Security Council's limited trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge came into effect and efforts by the Thai Foreign Ministry failed to persuade the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the peace plan.

The United Nations has set Jan 31 as the deadline for the Khmer Rouge to join the peace process.

According to Thai intelligence sources, the current battles between Phnom Penh and Khmer Rouge troops to protect their zones of influence and advance into each other's territory are still limited to the northern and northeastern areas.

But if the fighting intensifies, they said, it could later reach the Thai border.

They said the Khmer Rouge now control almost all of the western strip of Cambodia, previously shared with the other two resistance coalition partners—the Sihanoukist forces and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

These territories opposite Chanthaburi and Trat provinces cover about 15 per cent of the entire area.

They said the Marxist guerrillas have also penetrated deeper into Phnom Penh's zones in the eastern frontiers of the northern and northeastern provinces of Preah Vihear, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom and Kracheh. Ninety per cent of the Pra Vihear sector was in the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

A western military observer conceded that within a year of the signing of the peace agreement in October 1991, and despite the presence of the UN peacekeepers, the Khmer Rouge had gained considerable ground.

A Thai military official also predicted that fighting could last up to a year after the poll given the arms stockpiled by both sides.

According to Thai army officials, the army is drawing up a contingency plan for a possible evacuation of a Thai engineering battalion working in Battambang province under the UN flag.

They said escape routes for members of the UN peacekeeping forces into Thailand are also being studied in the event that they are threatened by fighting between the two groups. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Prasong's SRV Visit

BK3112121792 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Station commentary: "A New Step in the Relations Between Thailand and Vietnam"]

[Text] At the invitation of Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Thai Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri paid an official visit to Vietnam from 23 to 25 December. The visit, aimed at promoting bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields on the basis of mutual assistance, was a manifestation of the policy of the present Thai Government which gives top priority to relations with Thailand's neighboring countries.

During the past two years, relations and cooperation in various fields between Thailand and Vietnam have been satisfactorily developed. However, there is still room for further improvement to yield concrete manifestation of the bilateral cooperation. Therefore, during the visit, the two countries signed an agreement on a long-term 150 million baht loan from the Thai Government for Vietnam to buy goods from Thailand. The two countries also signed an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation. Following the continuous dialogue and consultations between the two countries, the Thai Cabinet gave approval for signing the two agreements on 24 May and 8 December respectively. The two agreements will facilitate the promotion of economic and trade relations between Thailand and Vietnam.

In addition to signing the two agreements, the two sides also reviewed Thailand's economic and technical assistance to Vietnam for improvements in the fields of education, public health, and agriculture in the interests of that country's national reconstruction and development. During the visit, the Thai foreign minister also presented an x-ray machine and a supply of x-ray film to the Vietnamese side. He also informed the Vietnamese side that the Thai cabinet had provided $20,000 in cash as relief assistance for Vietnamese typhoon victims.

Like any other two countries that have just normalized relations, Thailand and Vietnam must tackle some remaining problems. Officials of the two countries are working on these problems in order to find solutions that are fair to both sides. The visit provided an important opportunity for the Thai foreign minister to follow up progress in this regard and outline policy and guidelines for the officials of the two sides to further cooperation. The said problems include the delineation of maritime boundaries and joint cooperation to develop the overlapping maritime territory. This is a very delicate issue because it involves the sovereignty of the two countries and is very complicated in technical terms and in regard to international law. Moreover, there are valuable mineral deposits in the seabed within the maritime zones. Therefore, it will take time for the two countries to iron out these problems through dialogue and consultations so as to defend their own interests and avoid problems that may arise in the future. As for the fishing dispute in the Gulf of Thailand, the Thai foreign minister asked the Vietnamese side to release the Thai fishermen imprisoned in Vietnam.

Another problem concerns the Vietnamese refugees who fled to Thailand during the first Indochina war. They have been here for more than 40 years. During the visit, the Thai foreign minister informed the Vietnamese Government that the Thai Government has decided to grant Thai nationality to these refugees, known as the Dien Bien Phu refugees, so they can join mainstream Thai society.

Economic and trade relations constitute an important factor in relations between Thailand and Vietnam. On 11 December, the Thai Foreign Ministry invited for consultations various private sector businessmen who have been doing business with Vietnam. In trading with other countries, the Thai Government places emphasis on long-term cooperation and legitimate interests and detests any opportunistic act or unscrupulously earned gains. The Thai private sector does not feel confident about doing business in Vietnam because of that country's lack of a developed legal system or infrastructure. Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri also raised these issues for discussion with Vietnamese leaders to find solutions that will lead to the expansion of bilateral economic and trade cooperation as desired by both governments.

In sum, the visit to Vietnam by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri from 23 to 25 December marks an important step in the development of bilateral relations. We believe that the relations will be further strengthened in the future.

Chuan Discusses Indochina Land Routes

BK0101100893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, who is to meet his Japanese counterpart Kiichi Miyazawa here in about two weeks, will promote Thailand's initiative for land routes linking the kingdom to Indochina.

Miyazawa, who has chosen Bangkok to begin the second leg of his Asean tour, is meeting South East Asian leaders to deliver Japan's vision on the Asia-Pacific region in the post-Cold War era. He will also visit Malaysia and Brunei.

Thai officials said Chuan will push for the land routes to Indochina as a show of support for Japan's greater role in the development of the Asia Pacific region.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri will make an official visit to Laos before Miyazawa arrives in Bangkok on Jan 15 for two days of talks. He will consult with Vientiane on a package of proposals to develop existing land routes that will eventually link the Southeast Asian mainland with the three Indochinese states—Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Though initial discussions have been held with Laos and Vietnam, Thailand would like to show that it is serious about realizing this initiative, a senior Thai official said.

The proposal coincides with one to set up a Japanese-supported Indochina Development Fund espoused by former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan during his highly-publicized trip to Vietnam, which came just a few days ahead of a similar trip by Prasong.

The official, however, described Chatchai's effort as running parallel to the government's initiative.

During Prasong's official trip to Vietnam last week, Vietnamese leaders raised with him the development of land routes linking Thailand's northeastern province of Mukdahan with Savannakhet in northern Laos and Vietnam's eastern province of Danang to help promote the growing potential for trade and tourism among the three countries.

The official said the potential routes must primarily be economically viable and agreed to by the three countries—Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. Cambodia will join in later when it is ready.

Vietnam and Laos last year signed Asean's principle Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and were granted observer status to attend Asean's annual meeting of foreign ministers as part of their gradual integration with the Asian mainland.

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan told The Nation that the idea of the infrastructure network development projects was to try to help integrate the underdeveloped Indochinese states into the international system in regards to trade, investment and tourism.

Surin said Thailand feels that the concept will be in accord with Japan's much-needed greater role in the development of the Asia-Pacific region.

"Tokyo is very enthusiastic about the concept and it wants to see it translate into a concrete proposal," said Surin who headed a Thai advance mission to Japan last week to probe Japan's views on the Thai initiative.

According to Surin, the Foreign Ministry is working out a broad concept for the land routes to be given to Miyazawa. It will later set up interministry working panels to conduct feasibility studies of the projects as well as potential sources of funding.

The agencies involved will include the Transport Ministry and the National Economic and Social Development Board.

The broad concept is to have the Mekong basin as a parameter for the infrastructure network development with the participation of Cambodia, China and Burma at a later stage. Those countries, as well as Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, are Mekong riparian states.

It will bring together the proposed projects from Laos, Vietnam and Thailand as well as various reports by aid agencies including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Escap's study involved the development of Asian highways linking the mainland with Indochina and China and Burma while ADB's study was limited to land route projects linking Thailand and the Indochina states.

The Mekong Secretariat, an operating arm of the Mekong Committee, also conducted a study on the role of Mekong river in regional and subregional transport development.

Among potential routes were Vietnam's proposal for the development of routes linking Thailand's Mukdahan with Laos' central Savannaket and Vietnam's central coastal province of Danang via the Vietnamese east-coastal towns of Vinh and Hon La southward to Hue and Danang.

Thailand prefers the route at the Chong Mek crossing point in southeastern Ubon Ratchathani to link Laos' southern province of Paxse and Danang.

Laos has been cautious as it wants to see the Thai-Laos Friendship bridge, linking Vientiane and Nong Khai and now under construction, finished before it goes ahead with larger-scaled projects.

Laos also wants to repair the routes linking Thailand's northeastern province of Uttaradit with its northern ancient city of Luang Prabang to help promote tourism between Northern Thailand and Laos.

Border Demarcation With Burma Ready To Start

BK0301034493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said Thailand is ready to start boundary demarcation with Myanmar [Burma] now that troop withdrawal from the Hill 491 area has been completed. The minister on New Year's day inspected the situation at the Thai-Myanmar border near the disputed Hill 491. The minister said further talks between Thai and Myanmar authorities will be held on the matter and will be accelerated. Officials at the Survey Department, Ministry of Defense, and others concerned on the Thai side are prepared for the undertaking. They are now waiting for the Myanmar Government's move on the matter.

Vietnam

DK Crimes Against Vietnamese Condemned

BK3112153092 Hanoi VNA in English 1407 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec.31—The Vietnam-Cambodia Friendship Association today released a statement vehemently condemning the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] faction's terrorist acts against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. The statement recalled Democratic Kampuchea troops' attack on Dec.27 of a fishing hamlet beside the Tonle Sap River in Kompong Tralach District, Kompong Chnang Province, killing 14 persons including 12 Vietnamese and wounding 14 others. It described the crimes as serous violations of international law on the rights of people to live and work lawfully and normally in the territories of other countries, and as a challenge to international community and a threat to peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The association requested the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, the State of Cambodia and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia to take appropriate measures to punish the criminals and drastic measures to put an early end to those barbarous acts against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia.

The association asked the international community as a whole to condemn, and take strong measures against, these bloody acts of the Democratic Kampuchea in order to ensure the legitimate rights and conditions for overseas Vietnamese and other nationals in Cambodia to live and work normally.

For its part, the government's Overseas Vietnamese Commission also issued a statement today on the abovesaid incident, demanding the Democratic Kampuchea faction put an immediate end to its atrocities against the Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia, and fully observe the Paris agreements on Cambodia.

Lawyers Association Condemns KR 'Massacre'

BK0201143393 Hanoi VNA in English 1419 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 2—The Vietnam Lawyers Association today came out most strongly against the repeated massacre of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge since July 1992 in the Provinces of Kampot, Kokong, Kompong Thom, and especially the bloody acts in Kompong Chanang Province on Dec. 27 which killed 14 persons including 12 Vietnamese and injured 14 others.

In a statement today, the Vietnam Lawyers Association described the slaughter of Vietnamese nationals who have been honestly earning their living in Cambodia as a repetition of the genocidal acts committed by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979 when they were in power in Cambodia which had aroused worldwide abhorrence.

The Vietnam Lawyers Association calls on all lawyers in Cambodia and all other countries to condemn these crimes of the Khmer Rouge and make them known worldwide. It urgently requests the SNC [Supreme National Council], the State of Cambodia and UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to duly punish the criminals and take drastic and effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such acts of terrorism against Vietnamese and other foreign nationals in Cambodia, the statement concludes.

More on Vo Van Kiet Interview With VNA

BK0101130393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Report on an unidentified VNA correspondent's interview with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet on "some issues concerning government activities as the New Year is approaching;" date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [correspondent] In your government report at the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session, you, Mr. Prime Minister, dealt with new opportunities in our national socioeconomic situation. Would you elaborate on this?

[Vo Van Kiet] In 1992, we have scored relatively comprehensive economic achievements. This is the first year that we have attained and even exceeded all our main targets. These successes are the integration of the fruit of the many factors accumulated over the years and reflect the greatest efforts of the various strata of our people nationwide. They are also the result of the party's renovation policies and lines and from our management and investment system applied over the years in the building of material-technical bases, and from our open-minded foreign policies. These factors have created a high unity of opinion in society on the renovation. They have also generated the masses' working enthusiasm, developed the dynanism and creativity of various sectors, localities, and establishments, and at the same time, won the sympathy and support of friends abroad.

Although our existing production force is still limited, it is obvious our country is at a development stage that is different from the past few years. New opportunities are emerging in various domains of social life. We neither belittle our existing difficulties nor deficiencies. Instead, we have clearly analyzed them and come up with counter measures. We should promptly seize new opportunities to overcome difficulties. Through efforts to overcome difficulties, we should create new opportunities and new developments. However, if we fail to seize new opportunities, they will slip away. Instead of being victorious, difficulties would persist and further complicate the situation. That is precisely the law of development.

We concede that every area or locality in our country has its own potential that can be tapped in one way or another for development. There are none which face difficulties only without having any potential. Of late, while on my working visits to provinces, precincts, districts, and villages, including those with difficulties as in the hinterland and areas inhabited by ethnic compatriots in Tra Vinh and Soc Trang, I have seen more potential that can be tapped. If we invest, we will be able to recover twice or thrice our investment from the local people. We can muster a locality's potentials while cooperating with other localities and foreign countries. In this way, we can let establishments that are doing well develop much faster and localities with difficulties to handle these problems and then flourish.

The main purpose of our assessment of the new situation is to seize, make full use of, and develop these opportunities.

[Correspondent] The government has presented the National Assembly with an action program for its new term of office as has its socioeconomic plan for 1993. Could you, Mr. Prime Minister, elaborate on these priority programs and their significance for national stability and development in the new stage?

[Vo Van Kiet] The five-year 1991-95 socioeconomic plan and the 1993 plan have envisaged many priority programs, namely, the programs for increased production, for capital investment in the building of material-technical bases, for financial and monetary stabilization, for curbing and dispelling inflation, for cultural and social development, for education and training, for scientific and technological development, for family planning and health care, and so forth. Also included are programs for building the managerial apparatus, consolidating the state administrative system, enhancing law and order, curbing and eradicating corruption and smuggling, and the like. The contents of such programs have been presented before the National Assembly and announced through the mass media.

Here, I would like to elaborate on the reordering the priorities for economic construction projects. As in other domains, disproportionate growth in the economy has become prevalent, if not the pattern of development. Economic growth in our country and in each locality has long been evenly distributed among the various sectors and localities. With our limited capital, this has led to the failure to concentrate our capital investment on key projects that play a decisive role in the entire economy. In addition, our capital investment has been wasted in long-term projects. We, therefore, should direct our capital investment toward key projects. The country and every sector, province, city, precinct, and district should have their main targets.

Our party and state have decided that beginning in 1993, we will either muster all local and foreign sources of capital in continuing to step up the various construction projects, or increase the renovation of our existing equipment and facilities while starting on a number of major infrastructure projects, especially roads and harbors. Not only will the infrastructure projects be of great significance for future socioeconomic development, they are also of decisive importance for cultural and social development.

Meanwhile, we have started building various high potential economic zones. This will promote vigorous development and fast capital accumulation. They will be a back-up for other areas and serve as a catapult for all our socioeconomic activities.

Our state has planned to build six key economic zones under the strategy [for socioeconomic development] until the year 2000. They are Hanoi, Haiphong, Quang Ninh, Ho Chi Minh City, Bien Hoa, and Vung Tau.

For provinces in the Central Highlands and the central coastal region, Danang has good facilities such as a large harbor and an international airport. Developing them will not only benefit the localities but also the entire country. Of course, while concentrating our capital investment on key projects, we should also invest in other sectors and areas, particularly where the needs are most pressing.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, could you give us your views on how to renovate the state administrative system?

[Vo Van Kiet] In my government report presented at the National Assembly, I have already detailed the duties to restructure the state administrative system in terms of functions, tasks, and working relations between various agencies under the system as well as work methods, personnel training, and so forth. All these are very important, if we are to radically restructure state organs and vigorously shift from using bureaucratic administrative orders to law-governing administrative measures in socoecionomic management. We should ensure the gradual building of an effective management apparatus that the people can trust.

Here I would like to emphasize the responsibility of the heads of various state administrative organs at all levels and their working apparatuses. They should pay more attention to providing guidance in tackling various problems at the grass roots. The chairmen of the people's committees at the precinct, district, ward, and village levels should renovate their work methods and should stay closer to the grass roots and the people. This is to help solve the various problems by providing assistance to families facing difficulties in production and life; curbing and eradicating corruption and smuggling, and doing away with social vices such as prostitution, drug addiction, gambling, and the like.

We should gradually build wholesome social relations and a better cultural life to ensure peace for the people. These activities should be promptly carried out from the grass roots.

Memorial Service Held for Hoang Quoc Viet

BK0301092793 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] The memorial service for the late Hoang Quoc Viet, honorary chairman of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee and former political bureau member of the Vietnam Lao Dong Party, was solemnly held at Thong Nhat Conference Hall in Ho Chi Minh City on 30 December.

Attending the ceremony were Comrades Le Duc Anh, member of the party central committee political bureau and president of the state; lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, Vietnam Fatherland Front presidium chairman; Vo Tran Chi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the municipal party committee; Nguyen Van Linh, party Central Committee adviser; Vu Mao, National Assembly standing committee member; Truong My Hoa, party Central Committee secretary and Vietnam Women's Union president; Le Khac Binh, Municipal People's Council chairman, Truong Tan Sang, acting Municipal People's Committee chairman; Nguyen Van Hanh, Ho Chi Minh Fatherland Front Committee chairman, and representatives of agencies and mass organizations in the city.

Also attending were Professor Ha Ba Khue, Pasteur Institute director—representing Comrade Hoang Quoc Viet's family—and Comrade Nguyen Thi Tam, Provincial Party Committee member and Ha Bac Women's Union, leading a delegation representing the Ha Bac Native Association.

Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and Ho Chi Minh City People's Comittee secretary, read the eulogy for Comrade Hoang Quoc Viet—an unyielding communist combatant who had devoted his whole life to the benefit of the fatherland and the people.

Comrade Hoang Quoc Viet had shared the weal and woe of the contingent of workers since the very early stages of the workers' party. His life and revolutionary activities are good examples for subsequent generations.

Pham The Duyet Attends Army Day Ceremony

BK0201053793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Report on 21 December meeting at Hanoi City Hall of the Hanoi Party Committee, People's Committee, Fatherland Front, and Capital Military Region Command to mark the All-People National Defense Festival Day and 48th Army Day]

[Summary] "Dear comrades and friends, on the afternoon of 21 December, the Hanoi Party Committee, People's Committee, Fatherland Front, and Capital Military Region Command held a ceremony to mark All-People National Defense Day and the 48th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army on 22 December.

"Attending the function were Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the Party Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi Party Committee; Professor Pham Khac Quang, chairman of the Hanoi Fatherland Front; comrades from the standing committees of the Hanoi Party Committee and People's Committee; representatives from the Capital Military Region Command, Air Defense Force, and Air Force; commanding cadres of the Air Defense Force and Air Force units in Hanoi during the fight against U.S. imperialism's war of sabotage; chairmen and secretaries of nine precincts and districts of Hanoi City; and representatives of people from all strata and the Armed Forces in Hanoi."

Comrade Le Xuan Thuy, deputy secretary of the Hanoi Party Committee, delivered an opening speech at the meeting. In his speech, Comrade Le At Hoi, chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee, emphasized the great meaning of the All-People National Defense Festival and Army Day. He said the military victories scored in the last 48 years were due to the correct and creative leadership of the party. He also mentioned the heroic fight of Hanoi soldiers and people during the 12-day B-52 bombing raid by the U.S. Air Force and Hanoi's recent achievements in the fields of economy, culture, and society. In his concluding speech, he said Hanoi soldiers and people are determined to score achievements to build a better and more beautiful capital.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Army Day

BK0201135993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Report on an interview with Senior General Doan Khue, minister of national defense, by an unidentified reporter of the JOURNALIST AND PUBLIC OPINION [Nhaf Baos Vaf Coong Luaanj], on the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Vietnamese People's Army; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [Reporter] Dear Comrade Senior General: For our country at the time being, while viewing economic construction and development as a central task, we should also attach great importance to national defense. Could you, Mr. Senior General, let us know if the party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense have any policies or measures aimed at ensuring satisfactory implementation of the tasks of consolidating national defense and defending the fatherland?

[Doan Khue] First, I would like to thank the review JOURNALIST AND PUBLIC OPINION, a press organ of the Vietnam Journalists' Association, for having paid attention to national defense—one of the two tasks that have been especially entrusted to the Army for implementation by the party and the people.

Our country's age-old history shows that the pattern under which our people maintain their existence and achieve their national development calls for carrying out national construction along with national defense. The better the national construction, the more appropriate will be the attention given to national defense.

At present, the renovation of the country has produced encouraging initial results. However, following the crumbling of the socialist system in East Europe and the former Soviet Union, hostile forces have been intensifying their sabotage activities against the world revolutionary movement, particularly against those remaining socialist countries, including Vietnam. They are attempting to intensify their subversive measures, both armed and unarmed, against our national revolution politically, ideologically, psychologically, and in terms of lifestyle in an effort to blockade, isolate, and sabotage us economically. Along with stepping up their intelligence and espionage activities, they are seeking to contact local reactionary forces to help infiltrate groups of armed exile reactionaries into our country. This is to cause a socioeconomic crisis and to create opportunities to incite rebellion to overthrow the socialist regime, or, if conditions permit, to conduct armed aggression on different scales and at varying extents. Consequently, although our country is now in its peaceful construction, we should always be prepared to cope with all complex contingencies that may occur.

National defense consists of not only protecting independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and firmly maintaining a peaceful life, but also preserving political stability, defending the socialist regime, and safeguarding those revolutionary gains for which our entire party, people, and Army have spent untold efforts and energy and shed their own blood and broken their bones to regain after six decades of combat and unit-building.

Over the past few years, the party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense have involved themselves deeply in studying the military thinking of the party during the recent war for national liberation, their new thinking on the current national defense task, and the world situation in order to promptly come up with policies and measures to provide leadership and guidance for this important strategic task. In addition, they have directed the entire Armed Forces, together with all of the people, to satisfactorily combine national defense with national construction and to link economic construction with national defense and vice versa in order to make the people prosperous and the country powerful. They have cooperated closely with the Party Committee of the Central Public Security Department and the Ministry of Interior in guiding and directing troops, public security agents, and self-defense militiamen to join with the entire people and various sectors and localities in developing their combined strength to perform their national defense and security duties in the new stage. They have served as an advisory body for the party and the state in devising national defense plans and strategies, in building the all-people national defense, in preparing a strategy for the people's war for national defense, and in building a powerful national defense potential compatible with with the country's economic growth.

As for the people's Armed Forces, an army that plays a core role in national defense, the party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense have intensified their leadership and guidance efforts to have the entire Armed Forces develop their revolutionary character and their glorious tradition as Uncle Ho's soldiers; to build a regular, crack, and increasingly modernized revolutionary Army so it can fulfill its main strategic task entrusted to it by the party, state, and people while actively participating in making our country prosperous and powerful.

[Reporter] Switching to the market economy is one of the important factors needed for spurring national economic development. This has, however, created so many difficulties for the tasks of building the Army and consolidating national defense. In your view, what should our party, state, and people do to iron out these difficulties?

[Doan Khue] It should be admitted that the market system under the state management has, since the sixth party congress, brought about encouraging economic results for our country. However, in the market system, profit-making is a driving force for all activities. Therefore, it is a fact that at certain localities and grass-roots units, there has been inappropriate attention given to important tasks, including building the all-people national defense and the people's Armed Forces. To overcome these phenomena, in my view, along with keeping themselves aware of the party's political lines, all party committee echelons, and the administrations in various localities at the grass-roots level should know the party's military lines in the new stage as already outlined in the resolution of the Seventh Party Congress as well as in other resolutions of various party Central Committee plenums. From this, they should intensify their leadership and guidance efforts to have their cadres and people combine production and business with building the all-people national defense and the people's Armed Forces in a close-knit and harmonious fashion. It is important that they pay regular attention to building the strategy for the people's war in their areas of responsibility—including building local force units as well as militia and self-defense forces with appropriate personnel strength—and providing these forces with the command cadres and money necessary for their training, ensuring that they are capable of conducting in place combat activities and cooperating with main force Army corps in conducting mobile combat operations for national defense when necessary.

At the same time, efforts should be made to intensify didactical propaganda for party cadres and members and the people at large on the law governing military service, on policies for war invalids and families of fallen heroes as well as of active and discharged soldiers. We should ensure the observance of laws and policies, commend and reward those units or individuals with good deeds, and at the same time severely punish those collectives and individuals failing to comply with policies, such as those dodging military duty and those found sabotaging national defense works in localities.

[Reporter] Do you, comrade, have any ideas on the good and bad aspects of various press agencies at the central and local levels in propagating the tasks of building the Army, consoldiating national defense, and defending the fatherland in the new stage?

[Doan Khue] In recent years, newspapers in our country have shown more progress in tandem with the country's general mood of renovation. Apart from spreading propaganda on the national construction task, newspapers in the country have paid greater attention to propagating the party's policy on consolidating national defense and defending the fatherland. They have involved themselves more deeply in analyzing various schemes and tricks used by the enemy to oppose and undermine our national revolution. This has helped improve the vigilance and readiness among the people and troops to defend the fatherland. Newspapers have carried many reports hailing various localities and units for their active participation in building the all-people national defense and their implementation of the policy toward war invalids and fallen heroes and other Army rear policies. Newspapers have promoted increased solidarity between the Army and the people and praised the Army for participating in economic construction, for its training efforts to improve its militancy and combat readiness. Newspapers have also carried articles straighforwardly critical of deficiences and shortcomings found in implementing those tasks in question and of those manifestations not commensurate with the tradition of Uncle Ho's troops. Especially, the Vietnam Journalists's Association, the daily NHAN DAN, the Vietnam News Agency, the Radio Voice of Vietnam, the Vietnam Television Station, the daily SAIGON GIAI PHONG, the Ho Chi Minh City Television Station, the Journal VANGUARD TEENAGER, and the Journal HO CHI MINH CITY SECURITY POLICE, and other press agencies have also established sworn brotherhood with a number of military units and have presented gifts of high value to troops stationed on the Spratly archipelago in order to improve their spiritual and material life and to put their minds at ease to enthusiastically fulfill their duties. They have also contributed money to building friendship houses and presented savings passbooks to those needy families entitled to privilege policies. All these are the lofty and admirable deeds of our press circles.

On this occasion, through the journal JOURNALIST AND PUBLIC OPINION, on behalf of the party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the mass media and press workers nationwide.

I wish journalists natiowide greater enthusiasm to write more impressive articles to encourage the entire people and Army to build a prospeous and powerful fatherland and to firmly defend our beloved fatherland.

As a newspaper reader, a radio listener, and a television viewer, I would like to give some humble advice to help journalists concern themselves more appropriately with those tasks in question. Honestly, except for various military press agencies, other civilian press agencies have not given appropriate attention to propagating the tasks of consolidating national defense and defending the fatherland. I think that while reactionary forces outside the country are making full use of the mass media to direct their attacks at our country and to undermine our people ideologically, the press in the country should be all the more dynamic in churning out first-hand reports to expose the enemy's tricks and should join with the people and Army in promoting unity and vigilance to maintain our stability in all respects. As for those articles designed to fight corruption and negative phenomena, the press should ensure the accuracy of information provided if it is to improve its militancy and to prevent reactionary elements from exploiting our negligences to stir up the people's emotions. I say this because there have been some press articles, while criticizing the shortcomings of certain military units, giving inaccurate information and thereby more or less adversely affecting the prestige of our troops.

In the future, I suggest that the press nationwide pay more attention to propagating the tasks of consolidating national defense and building the Armed Forces by writing articles with advisory, encouraging, and critical characters in order to contribute to building a powerful all-people national defense and an Army worthy of being called Uncle Ho's troops. The Ministry of National Defense and the Poltical General Department are ready to create favorable conditions for journalists to make fact-finding tours to write articles on those matters in question.

[Reporter] Now, as always before, military newspapers have also proven to be a shock force in the movement to spread propaganda for building the Armed Forces, consolidating national defense, and liberating and defending the fatherland. How do you, comrade, think about the substance and presentation of military newspapers at the time being?

[Doan Khue] The party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense affirm that military newspapers are the voice of the party and the forum of the people's Armed Forces and of the people in disseminating the two strategic tasks of the country, particularly the task of defending the fatherland. In this direction, I think that over the past few years, military newspapers have made great efforts and have satisfactorily performed this task in accordance with their duty as the mass media, thus worthy of being a shock trooper of the people's Armed Forces on the ideological and cultural front. For instance, military newspapers have always kept themselves aware of the policies and lines of the party, state, and Army vis-a-vis the tasks of defending and building the country, combining economic contruction with national defense and vice versa, and building the people's Armed Forces in the new stage. This is to disseminate these policies and lines to the entire people and Army. Many articles found in the Journal TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN and the Daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN and in various military radio programs have reflected the sensitivity, sharpness, and dynamism of the press in its offensive against hostile tendencies in order to protect the party, the regime, and the people, to safeguard the sacred territorial integrity of the fatherland, and to practically promote the entire Army and people to implement their national defense and security, and socioeconomic tasks, participate in the fight against negativism and corruption, contribute to reestablishing law and order and social justice, thereby winning trust and love from readers, listeners, and viewers. In terms of presentation, the press has also gradually improved. But frankly speaking, military newspapers should exert greater effort if they are to ensure their all-Army and national character. They should increase their articles on building the Army and the consolidation of national defense characterized by providing guidance and detecting and promoting new models in order to attract readership. On the other hand, they should prevent those press articles and literary items which bear erroneous manifestations or discuss unrealistic matters from coming off the press.

The party Central Committee Military Commission, the Ministry of National Defense, and the Political General

Department have intensified their guidance and created conditions for military newspapers to make progress. In the time to come, such things should be given greater attention.

I believe that, together with other newspapers nationwide, military newspapers will be forever worthy of their tradition and valuable experience and will be able to achieve ever-greater progress in all aspects.

[Reporter] Thank you, Comrade Senior General.

Ho Chi Minh City Meeting Marks Army Day

BK0301105893 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] On the evening of 21 December, the Ho Chi Minh City party committee, Peoples Council, Peoples Committee, Fatherland Front, and Seventh Military Region Command held a solemn meeting to mark the 48th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army and the All People National Defense Festival Day. Attending the meeting were Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the party Political Bureau and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee; Truong Van Ba, deputy chairman of the people's council; Major General Le Van Cuc, deputy commander of the Seventh Military Region; and many representatives of organs, mass organizations, and the public.

At the meeting, Nguyen Van Chuc, deputy chairman of the city peoples committee, delivered a speech reviewing the glorious revolutionary stages of our nation and armed forces. He hailed the soldiers' bravery and fighting spirit to overcome all difficulties and hardships under the party's leadership for national independence and freedom. He also mentioned the city's socioeconomic developments in 1992 and fundamental duties in 1993.

Maj. Gen. Le Van Cuc thanked the city's people from all strata of life for their support and assistance to the regional Armed Forces. He stated that cadres and soldiers are absolutely loyal to the party and people and determined to smash all hostile forces' conspiracies to maintain political stability and social order in the region.

General Le Kha Phieu Praises Army Role

BK0301141993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Article by Senior Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu: "Our Army Will Always be Worthy of the Love and Confidence Extended by the Party and People"—published in the 21 December issue of NHAN DAN]

[Text] Having been trained and fostered by the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, the Vietnam People's Army [VPV] has undergone 48 years of building, working, combat, growing, and attaining notable achievements. The VPA, starting from small military units with rudimentary weapons 48 years ago, has become a strong and heroic Army.

Under the banner of fighting for all victories set by our party and esteemed Uncle Ho, the VPA has always upheld its boundless loyalty to the fatherland and the people. It has always strengthened unity to overcome all ordeals, made countless sacrifices, and fought bravely and creatively, thereby fulfilling all assigned tasks.

Our VPA is always a modern Army that upholds the fine character of the working class and the glorious tradition of the nation, maintains its ardent love for the fatherland, and strengthens the lofty spirit of proletarian internationalism. It is an effective apparatus and a reliable political combat force of the party, a bastion of the socialist state, and a firm bulwark for the people.

The VPA's glorious military exploits scored during the past half a century have contributed, together with people throughout the country, to adding new pages to the grand history of our national liberation and defense. The existence of our Army's glorious tradition, first of all, stemmed from the correct and creative leadership of our party and esteemed Uncle Ho. Upholding the national independence banner and socialism, the CPV has charted the revolutionary orientations and the correct political lines for each stage of the revolution. The party has successfully set forth the military lines and methods for the expansion of the people's war, strengthening the all-people national defense, and building the people's Armed Forces. Each military exploit and each further step toward maturity by our Army have been attributed to the organization, education, and leadership of our party.

Our army's glorious tradition and strength have been attained through the flesh-and-blood relationship with the people. Indeed, the Army comes from the people, fights for the people, and receives wholehearted support from them. As a result, our Army has fulfilled all tasks and scored glorious victories. During the past several decades, our people have endured hardships and contributed countless energy and property to the revolution. They have, in various forms, participated in building our Army up to be firm and strong. The people's potential is, of course, the core strength of our Army.

The VPA is a heroic Army of a heroic nation. Its glorious tradition is the crystallization of the tradition of 1,000 years of fighting by our forefathers against enemies. The Army must continue to optimally develop the glorious victories of the Bach Dang, Chi Lang, and Dong Da battles in the past.

The VPA's glorious tradition is not only the great pride of various generations of our cadres and combatants, but also the mutual pride of our entire party and people—the pride of the revolutionary Army, the core force of the people in the armed struggle against all enemies.

During the past several years, with support and assistance from the people, sectors, and localities, our Army has firmly grasped the socialist renovative lines set by the Sixth and Seventh CPV Congresses. It has seriously and effectively implemented various resolutions of the party concerning national defense. It has also effectively carried out adjustments in strategies, thereby contributing to consolidating the all-people national defense, strengthening Army organization, improving military training to meet requirements and tasks in the new stage, and effectively using past experiences in the new situation. The Army has been strengthened politically to serve as a core force for enhancing the combined strength, carrying out military training and combat readiness, and engaging in mass mobilization work and productive labor.

Against the background of a complicated situation at home and abroad, the Army has manifested its firm stand politically, consistently upheld the socialist ideal and satisfactorily carried out tasks entrusted by the party, state, and the people.

Given the requirements of national defense in the new situation, the new conditions and opportunities, and the new challenges, various echelons of the Army and sectors concerned must strive to overcome difficulties, consolidate all-people national defense, and build the people's Armed Forces. They must strive to firmly grasp and to effectively carry out resolutions of the Seventh CPV Congress and other resolutions of the party Central Committee.

The historic and significant mission of our people at present is to triumphantly build socialism and to firmly defend the socialist fatherland. The party political platform adopted at the Seventh CPV Congress has asserted that while making it the foremost task of building the country, our people must consistently heighten vigilance, consolidate the national defense task, maintain political security and social order and safety, defend the fatherland, and safeguard our revolutionary gains.

The formulation of national defense tasks for the days ahead must be based on the fundamental principles of optimally developing patriotism, upholding the revolutionary tradition and the spirit of self-reliance, strengthening thoughts and actions, resolutely building socialism, upholding revolutionary vigilance, firmly maintaining political stability, and combining the all-people national defense with the people's combat position. Efforts must be made to improve the quality of the Armed Forces; to triumphantly safeguard national independence, to protect national security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; to defend the people and the party; to safeguard our socialist system; to prevent and to foil all schemes of peaceful evolution, rebellion, and overthrow enemies; and to stand ready to cope with situations under all circumstances.

We must strive to carry out firmly and simultaneously the two strategic tasks of building socialism and defending the socialist fatherland. Historical experience, lessons learned from tasks in the past years, and requirements in consolidating national defense and building the Army in the new stage are factors that would help us satisfactorily carry out these two strategic tasks. This is an objective demand and the law of existence and development of our nation over the past thousands of years of history. The building of the country must be carried out in parallel with its defense. That is the watchword bequeathed by our ancestors. To successfully defend our country, we must make the people rich and the country strong. National independence will not last if the people are poor and the country weak. Building socialism and developing the socioeconomic situation in our country will enable us to have a firm basis to triumphantly carry out the national defense task. Likewise, to defend national independence and freedom, to protect the fatherland's frontiers and socialism, and to stabilize the politico-social situation will significantly help us to firmly maintain peace and to eliminate gradually the danger of wars, thereby creating favorable conditions for building the nation.

The close relationship between the two strategic tasks of building socialism and defending the socialist fatherland must be considered when we formulate policies to implement the socioeconomic strategies. We must ensure that this relationship will consistently affect the implementation of tasks at each sector and branch in localities from the central to local levels.

Strengthening national defense, building the Army, and firmly maintaining national security are important tasks for all people. These tasks must be put under party leadership and state management. To build the all-people national defense and make the Army firm and strong are the duties of various echelons, sectors, localities, and society. Each echelon, sector, and locality must pay attention to consolidating national defense and building the Army in accordance with their capability and political responsibility. This is the obligation and the tradition of our nation. We must consistently ensure that our Army has a better spiritual and material life so as to fulfill the assigned tasks and to meet requirements of our national economy. We must also strive to bring the national integrated strength into full play to build the Army, to firmly consolidate the all-people national defense, and to strengthen the people's combat position. Only by doing these will we be able to foil all schemes and sabotage of the enemies under all circumstances.

To be worthy of being the core force for consolidating the national defense and safeguarding the fatherland, our Army must continue to build itself into a revolutionary, regular, seasoned, and modern Army. We must focus efforts on enhancing our Army's integrated quality and fighting capacity, while strengthening its political background so as to make our Army politically committed in all circumstances. We must also strive to enhance our Army's ideological and cultural background, to improve its technical and tactical capabilities, to strengthen its regular pattern, to improve its maintenance and use of weaponry and equipment, and to develop its scientific-technological potential to catch up with other branches of the state and thereby enhancing its scientific-technological standard. We must also help the Army to step up production, to practice thrift, to oppose embezzlement and waste, to ensure stability, and to gradually improve the daily life of soldiers. Special attention must also be made to encourage the Army to seriously carry out party and political tasks. The party building task must be carried out in close association with cadre training. We must train and foster all military personnel to help them enhance their political and general background especially in the cultural, artistic, scientific, and law domains.

The Army should be a major school and a work force that can harmoniously participate in various revolutionary movements of the people. It should be the Army of the people and for the people, winning the love and confidence of the masses.

If we can firmly grasp the party lines and the Ho Chi Minh military concept, meet the needs of the current renovation and national defense, effectively develop combat lessons of our ancestors, creatively apply the experience of the past 48 years, and study modern military techniques, we will certainly be able to build a firm and strong all-people national defense system. This would also include very strong people's Armed Forces with high combat capability that would also fulfill all assigned tasks in the new stage, thereby being worthy of the love and confidence of the party and people.

On this auspicious occasion, our entire Army turn toward the glorious CPV, the party that leads our Armed Forces and people to various victories, the party that builds and guides our Army to fight and win. We also remember our esteemed Uncle Ho, the beloved father of the Armed Forces who cared for, trained, and fostered our Army at various stages. We express our boundless gratitude to people nationwide for their sacrifices and aid to the Army in the past several decades despite numerous difficulties. We also thank fallen soldiers, wounded and sick combatants, and war veterans who have made great sacrifices to uphold the Army's glorious tradition.

The entire cadres and combatants of the Army pledge that they will strive to continue to develop the Army's fine character and glorious tradition, to overcome difficulties to attain new progress, enhance the integrated strength and capability in combat readiness, and carry out the Army's functions in fighting and in productive labor, thereby scoring oustanding achievements in anticipation of the 50th VPA founding anniversary.

Our Army pledges that it will forever be a loyal force of the party, an Army of and for the people, an Army of Uncle Ho, and a heroic Army of a heroic nation.

Decision on Management of Special Businesses

BK3112152492 Hanoi VNA in English 1358 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 31—The Vietnamese Government on December 23 issued a decision on the management of special businesses.

According to Decision No. 17/cp special businesses include:

1. Lodging business,
2. Seal engraving,
3. Printing and photocopy,
4. Production and repair of sport guns, production of cartridges, and leasing sport guns,
5. Businesses involving the use of explosive, and toxic and radio-active substances,
6. Plastic surgery (to change the physical identity of a person).

The above-said businesses can be run by different economic sectors and branches of activity.

Foreign individuals and organisations involved in such businesses by virtue of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam must abide by the regulations on security and order of the Vietnamese state.

The State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, the Ministry of Commerce and the General Department of Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior shall guide and enforce the strict observance of the regulations on security and order by foreign organisations and individuals operating special businesses in vietnam.

All violations of the regulations and all acts of using those special businesses to endanger the national security and social order of Vietnam shall be dealt with according to the law depending on the seriousness of the violation.

Population Reaches 71 Million

BK3112003892 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30—According to tabulation by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) the population of Vietnam stands at more than 71 million at the end of 1992, up 1.6 million compared with the same point of time in 1991. The number of children born this year is estimated at 2.1 million, according to the same source.

24 Projects in Heavy Industry Approved in 1992

BK3012064192 Hanoi VNA in English 0606 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30—The State Committee for Cooperation and Investment has since the promulgation of the Foreign Investment Law in late 1987 granted licences to 88 foreign-invests [as received] projects in mechanical engineering, chemical production, mining, electricity and electronics with a total capital of USD [U.S. dollars] 495,015,000, accounting for about 10 percent of the total foreign investment in the country.

Of the total licensed projects, 24 were granted in 1992, capitalized at USD 253,738,594 of 51.2 percent of the total investment capital in the heavy industrial sector. Six out of the 82 projects have an investment capital of more than 20 million USD each and the projects with investment capital of less than one million USD account for about 43 percent. Twenty-eight projects are being executed, employing 2,146 Vietnamese workers. The licensed projects are managed by 10 ministries, 10 localities and three mass organisations. The Ministry of Heavy Industry manages 14 projects, most of them licensed in 1991 and 1992, and seven have begun operation. Most worthy of note is the Mekong Corporation, a joint venture in car assembly between the Heavy Industry Ministry, the Sakyno Company of Ho Chi Minh City, Sea Young International Inc. of South Korea, and Saeilo Machinery Japan Inc. with a total investment capital of more than 35 million USD.

The Heavy Industry Ministry is calling for foreign investment in steel production, mechanical engineering, apatite mining, sorting and processing, nitrogerous fertilizer manufacture and mining of gold and precious stones.

Australia

Signing of START Treaty Viewed

BK0401073693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Australia has praised the signing of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START] between the United States and Russia. The new treaty signed in Moscow by President Bush and Yeltsin is known as START-II and calls for the scrapping of two thirds of American and Russian nuclear missiles. Linda (Mortrum) reports that while Australia praises the signing of the START-II treaty it has also sounded a criticism.

[Begin (Mortrum) recording] Acting Foreign Affairs Minister John Kerin is describing the treaty as a landmark recognition of the positive [word indistinct] of the post-cold war world. He also says it is one of the great achievements of the Bush presidency and an act of political courage by Boris Yeltsin. But, implementation of the treaty, Mr. Kerin says, still depends on action by other states of the former Soviet Union and he has renewed Australia's call for Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine to join the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear weapon states. Mr. Kerin said Australia sees great value in the START treaties [words indistinct] to give nuclear confrontation and a signal against the risk of nuclear proliferation. [end recording]

Oil Contract Agreement Reached With SRV

BK2912074692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] An Australian-owned company BHP has reached agreement with three other organizations for a production-sharing contract for oil in the Con Son basin off the south coast of Vietnam. BHP's petroleum subsidiary in Vietnam and Petronas Carigali, an operating arm of the Malaysian state oil company, have entered into an agreement with Petrovietnam and Vietsovpetro to develop the (Duy Hong) or big bear field. Petrovietnam is the Vietnamese national oil and gas company and Vietsovpetro is a Vietnamese-Russian joint venture enterprise.

BHP petroleum says the Duy Hong field is yet to be fully appraised but at this stage it is estimated that the field size is about 700 to 800 million barrels of oil together with significant volumes of nonassociated gas. BHP petroleum and Petronas Karigali were among nine consortium which originally bid for the project last year.

New Caledonia

Security Forces Remove Striking Workers

BK3112071292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0430 GMT 31 Dec 92

[Text] Noumea, Dec 31 (AFP)—Security forces cleared strikers Thursday from the entrance to a printing works here that they had been picketing for the past month, New Caledonia's high commission said in a statement.

The operation to clear the members of the Kanak and Exploited Workers Union (USTKE) was completed without incident, the statement said.

The strikers, who have been picketing the printing house since December 2, are demanding a minimum monthly salary of 5,500 French francs (1,000 dollars) and a year-end bonus.

After the failure Wednesday of the latest negotiations, the printing house's majority non-striking workers set fire to tyres near the pickets.

Also Wednesday, the USTKE voted in favour of launching from Sunday a general strike and boycott of all goods produced by affiliates of the Paris-based Hersant group, which owns the printing works.

The statement said the high commission had decided to bring in the security forces to remove the strikers in order to "prevent public security problems.

New Zealand

More Development Aid Given to Pacific States

BK3012074892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Figures reveal New Zealand gave more money to development programs in the South Pacific during the current financial year despite cuts in its aid budget.

The country's total development assistance budget for 1992-93 has been cut by $2.3 million, or 3 percent, to $73 million. This means New Zealand's aid, as a proportion of its gross domestic product, has slumped well below the 1 percent mark expected of developed countries.

Overseas students (?study grants) have been cut and a scheme for financing the training of students from the Pacific in third countries has ended. This has made more New Zealand direct bilateral aid available for the South Pacific countries themselves as well as for countries in Asia.

As a result, bilateral aid to all South Pacific countries, other than the Cook Islands and Niue, is being raised.